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Protest marchers flood B.C. capital but Campbell stays home

by Kevin Groves

Simmering discontent with the BC Liberal government finally reached its boiling point in Victoria this month when thousands of protesters took to the streets on Feb. 23.

Organized by the BC Federation of Labour (BCFED), the protest bubbled with nearly 25,000 people angry over the recent civil service cuts, the reopening of public sector union contracts, the changes to welfare rules and the deregulation of tuition fees in B.C.

"We are here today because we are fighting for the future of our province," said Jim Sinclair, BCFED president. "Let there be no doubt that we represent the majority of people in B.C. And we have the strength, resolve and answers to build this province properly."

The rally began with a march down Victoria's Government Street at 11:30 a.m. Some protesters shouted "recall," a reference to voter eligibility to recall their MLAs later this year.

An hour later, protesters packed the legislature lawn and flooded more than two city blocks when 17 scheduled speakers, ranging from labour leaders to aboriginal rights activists, began an impassioned oratory to the cheering crowd.

Protesters interviewed expressed contempt for B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell's decision to stay home during the rally and recent comments by provincial Finance Minister Gary Collins, who called the protests "predictable."

"[Campbell and Collins] can say and do what they want but they can't ignore the people that are here and the issues of everyday society," said Surrey resident Lindsay Hamilton, who came to Victoria along with hundreds of others on a ferry chartered by the BCFED.

Other demonstrators said the rally would fail to get the point across to the B.C. government, since the legislature was closed for the weekend.

Many advocated further action and called for a province-wide general strike.

"Today I see a lot of signs that say a general strike is the only way to move the [BC Liberals] and that might be what we need to do with a government that is so ideologically entrenched," said Victoria resident Hub Meeker.

Observers who stopped to watch the march, waved and honked horns.

"We sure hope that Campbell will listen with such a large population protesting," said Sooke resident Pamela Prewett. "This is a great show of solidarity."

More than 120 Victoria Police and Commissionaires were at the scene.

The RCMP considered the protest low-risk.

The protest remained peaceful until its dispersal at 2:35 p.m.

Residents of Camp Campbell, a group of activists and Victoria street youth who have camped out on the legislature lawn since the Feb. 6 student rally, greeted the marchers with cheers, drums and a garden of vegetables planted on the legislature lawn.

"There are no jobs on the island so we need available, arable land to plant food," said camper Peter Degroog as he tilled the legislature soil. "We might as well do it here."

Jessica Boquist, a UVic student who lived at Camp Campbell for 15 days, added she plans to leave Camp Campbell after the rally, but many members of the collective intend to stay for as long as they can despite possible police action.

"It is no one's goal to get arrested," she said.

On Feb. 26 a B.C. Supreme Court Judge ordered the protesters off the grounds and in the following 24 hours most people began to leave peacefully.

At the Feb. 23 protest, the sentiment was not unified and other protesters shouted differing points of view at the rally.

Krista Wickes, a member of the Victoria Status of Women Action Group (VSWAG), said the former BC NDP were just as guilty for attacking the poor as the BC Liberals.

"As far as I'm concerned, what we're seeing now is same stuff different party," Wickes said.

Wickes said B.C. needs a proportional government where the provincial electorate could be represented more equitably in the Legislature.

"This would prevent another government with 100 and some odd MLAs to do whatever they want," she said.

The last time there was a protest of this size in B.C. was in 1983, when 20,000 people protested B.C.'s Social Credit government's cuts to social programs.

photo by John Thompson

Thousands of protesters show their dissent with the B.C. government on Feb. 23, while *Martlet* reporter John Thompson risks his life (and breaks the law) to get a good shot of the scene.

Voices from the crowd – a reporter's notebook

by David Ball

Rick Dowling, *business manager, local 213 (Vancouver), International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW).*

"I'm here for a whole variety of things. As a trade unionist I'm concerned about this attitude towards unions in general. It's a right-wing agenda. Just about every social structure and fabric in the province is under attack. It's almost like [Gordon Campbell] is trying to destroy everything we've cherished over the years – the society that we've built in B.C. Hopefully he'll see this is a ground-swell that will keep on going. If he's only listening to his corporate hacks, he's going to destroy the province socially and economically. Who wants to invest in a place where there's social unrest? He's going to drive away economic growth."

Paul Belanger, *Hospital Employees Union (HEU), Acacia Lodge, Shawnigan Lake.*

"We're here to get rid of Gordon Campbell. There's an awful lot of people around here who feel the same way I do. We're here to support each other. Obviously he's not very popular. I've worked for 21 years [at Acacia Lodge] and I've lost my job. By allowing the employer to contract out, I'm out of a job."

Dawn Steele, *Militant Mothers on the Move (Vancouver).*

"We're protesting the cuts that will affect kids and adults with disabilities. The cutbacks are unfair. They're picking on the most vulnerable." The Militant Mothers have written letters to MLAs for three months, but "they haven't listened to us, so that's why we're here today."

Britney Ketchum, *19 (Port Alberni).*

Ketchum and her sister Courtney carried a large kitchen sink through the crowd, holding it above their heads.

"We decided that he took everything else. He may as well take the kitchen sink as well."

The crowd allowed the two to pass up to the very front where a unionist behind the security fence received the sink and placed it on the legislature steps.

Govind Sundram, *assistant director, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE).*

"I hope the government gets the message that they can only hurt people so much. They're going to have to listen sooner or later. Better sooner than later, before they put everything that we've worked so hard to build at risk."

Sharmeen Khan, *representing various groups on campus.*

"I'm here for the dozens of things Canadian citizens have fought for: women, the environment, Aboriginal solidarity, health care. I hope this isn't just one day, and we go back to working. When cuts affect marginalized people, it's hard for them to organize. I hope that this is just the beginning."

Diane Claveau, *Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU), Vancouver Island. OPEIU represents BC Hydro and ICBC.*

Claveau waved a gay pride flag up high.

"I'm here to represent the gay community. I'm here to make sure we're not forgotten in the cutbacks. Same-sex benefits may be cut."

Jim Sinclair, *BC Federation of Labour.*

"This is the biggest demonstration in B.C.'s history. This is a fight over the future of our children and our communities. We are in a fight for the future of this province. We have answers and we have resolve. Instead of cutbacks, the government should rescind tax cuts for the wealthy and corporate sector. There is only one question for us today. Are we willing to continue to fight for this province?"

The crowd answered with a thundering "YES."

Judy Grant, *16, Radical Cheerleaders, Highland Secondary (Comox).*

"I came because I care about what's going on in B.C. Radical cheerleading is an interesting way to bring energy to the protest. I see what's going on now. This is the first time the cheerleading squad has performed. We really need to practice."

She said teachers at her school who came to the protest booked an entire bus for students who wished to attend.

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ELECTION NOTEBOOK

by Suzanne Beaubien

Money woes buoy candidate

For the second straight year, Jonas Gifford will run for the position of UVSS director of finance.

While it's not often that someone fills this position for more than one year, Gifford's decision may be seen as extraordinary. Just two months into Gifford's term this year, an external audit uncovered a $429,977 deficit, plunging the student society into a sea of financial uncertainty.

Gifford said his experiences this year qualify him to once again accept the responsibility of dealing with the crisis.

"I think it's important for me to run again," said Gifford. "This year we've worked really hard to turn [the student society's financial situation] around."

"Now that we have things in order, it's important to follow through with improvements. Next year will be our opportunity to get it right."

The job is very demanding. Gifford said he spends 50 to 60 hours a week on the job.

"I come in early. I stay late. It takes up all of my life," said Gifford.

A physics and computer science major, Gifford has been taking only one class this year, P.E. 104, a weight training class.

"I don't want school to distract me from my position."

This has been Gifford's third year involved with student politics, and he says if elected, next year will be his last.

Gifford's only opponent for the position, second-year economics student Dallas Henault, supports his decision to run again for the position of director of finances.

"If he thinks he could do a good job and is confident that he could win, I say go for it," said Henault.

Henault is campaigning with the Student Alternative slate which promises "fiscal responsibility" and "no more scandals."

Campaign posters are up

Campus walls both inside and outside are adorned with posters and banners for the UVSS electoral candidates.

But what keeps candidates from overdoing it?

Rules enforced by the electoral officers restrict candidates from wallpapering poster boards and spending half their student loans on photocopying.

Each candidate receives a 50 dollar voucher at Zap! for photocopying posters and leaflets. Money for this fund comes from student fees each semester.

Candidates are limited in the number of posters, banners and pages of leaflets they can distribute. A maximum of 50 eight-and-a-half by 11 posters and four 15 square feet banners can be put up around campus by each candidate. Candidates can also print up to 400 pages of leaflets which must be handed out directly to students.

Officers also impose a $75 limit on total photocopying expenses. Candidates must provide receipts for their campaign expenditures and candidates will be penalized if they exceed the limit. Several rules also apply to posting the campaign materials around campus. Banners must be hung under cover away from rain and campaigning is restricted to the UVic campus.

While the UVSS tries not to limit poster content, there are a couple of rules that apply only to students running with a slate. Each poster can have only one name on it and must have the student's name printed larger than the slate name.

Adam Peters, who ran as an independent candidate last year, said it can be difficult for candidates to get noticed without the backing of a slate. He said regulations on poster content are important for helping the independent candidates have a voice on campus.

During polling, there must be no posters within sight of the station and candidates are not permitted to promote themselves within sight of a station.

Polling will take place from March 6 to 8 at a number of stations around campus.

Independents worth a look

As you wade your way through the promises and platforms in the coming weeks, take care to notice the few independent candidates running for positions on the UVSS board this year.

While coordinated posters and platforms are the hallmark of slates, those ever-present campus political conglomerates that dominate the political arena in the pre-election period, it is the independent candidates that use unique ways to get students' attention.

Robert Oluka, a fourth-year political science student, is running for the position of director of academics as an independent.

His posters, drawn by a friend, feature a graphic of him standing alone, away from a crowd of arguing politicos.

Oluka says neither of the two slates represents his views and he doesn't want to compromise his ideas in exchange for the support that a slate would provide. He said it can be difficult for independents to get attention, but he's hoping his individuality will set him apart.

"I wish everybody would run as an independent," said Oluka. "You have the rest of your life to run as part of a party."

Oluka has been on the board since January as a representative for students of colour.

Third-year anthropology student Emily Wilson is also running for director of academics as an independent. Last year she ran with the now-defunct SPUD slate. (Students for a Progressive United Democracy) and was one of three spudsters elected to the board. Wilson choose to run as an independent this year because she wants to get beyond slate politics.

"You're free as an independent to focus on your job," she said. "And, you're ready to work with whoever gets elected, regardless of their slate."

Devin Anderson,an independent running for Senate and director at large, agreed.

"As an independent, I am able to represent all students equally, which is the driving force behind my platform," he said. "Slates have always had fairly hard-line views, which alienates them from a large percentage of the student body that may not agree with what they're saying. In my opinion, it's time UVic's governing bodies are used to represent the entire student community."

What's the plan for Vertigo

UVSS electoral candidates disagree over the future possibilities of the SUB's only nightclub.

One of the hot issues being discussed during campaign week is the possible reopening of Vertigo.

Last October, after the UVSS discovered Vertigo's accumulated operating loss was upwards of $340,000, the board said it wasn't worth all the students' money it was losing and closed it down until further notice.

Dallas Henault, candidate for the position of director of finance and member of the Student Alternative slate, includes a promise to reopen the nightclub in his platform.

"There's got to be a way to make money selling beer on campus," said Henault. "Vertigo has got a great atmosphere, and we need to get students back into the SUB."

Henault also hopes Vertigo could be used to host weekly all-ages events. But the Putting Students First slate is more cautious about the possibility of reopening the nightclub.

"The biggest guiding principle for the current UVSS is avoiding financial risk," said Jonas Gifford, financial director for the UVSS and candidate running under the Students First slate. While Gifford says he is open to the idea of reopening Vertigo, he is careful to avoid any promises.

"I'm very wary. It [Vertigo] always lost money in the past; in fact, it's is a recipe for financial disaster," Gifford said.

In the 2001-2002 scholastic year the UVSS hosted several all-ages events in the grad lounge and the SUB.

Web voting gets thumbs down

UVic's student elections will continue to use traditional ballots for this year's student executive elections.

Due to the risk of an unstable web voting system, Adam Peters, director at large, decided the UVSS elections will play it safe this year and continue to use polling stations.

For the past few months, UVSS members have debated adopting the same online voting system used last year for both the Senate and the Board of Governors (BOG) elections.

While Peters estimates the Web voting system would save the UVSS three to four thousand dollars this year, he said the system is fraught with electronic glitches.

Last year the online voting system timed out and lost votes, leaving UVSS directors wondering whether the system was stable enough to handle the demands of the student executive elections this year.

Kim McGowan, systems development manager of Student Records Systems, said the system is new and still under development.

"Until you test it (a new program) under live conditions, you're not quite sure what will happen," said McGowan.

Programmers have recently tested this year's system and are positive about the results.

"We think the servers are adequate," said McGowan, adding that the worse that could happen this year is a slow server or a "timeout."

This year the Web-based system will be only used for the Senate and BoG elections.

"We're looking forward to testing the system and we hope we get a good turnout," said McGowan.

More students vote in the UVSS elections than in both the Senate and BoG. Still, Peters said the discussion on introducing a Web voting system is not over. "If the university could run a stable system, it would definitely be a strong possibility for the future," he said

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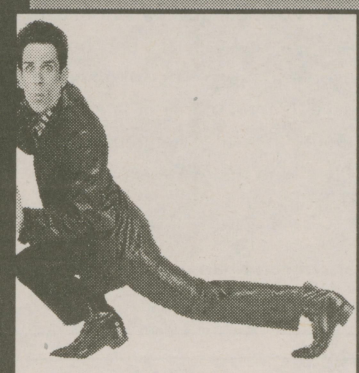
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Pesticides pose health problems for students

by Lorna Mace

photo by Graham Winterbottom

Some of the pesticides the university sprays to control pests on campus have been linked to birth defects and deaths.

Roundup, Malathion and Benomyl have doused weeds, pests and fungus on campus this year.

But according to the Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA) the chemical benomyl, which is used to control fungus, is suspected of causing birth defects in children. It is hotly debated just how much benomyl needs to be ingested by pregnant women to cause the defects.

TEA is an organization that promotes environmentally friendly alternatives to pesticides in Toronto.

The insecticide Malathion is described as mutagenic, a possible carcinogen and highly toxic to birds, bees, fish, amphibians and earthworms. It has also been linked to birth defects.

Katy Young, a representative of the Ecological Health Alliance, B.C.'s equivalent to TEA, agrees that the chemicals are a dangerous toxic soup.

"Malathion is an organophosphate pesticide . . . it is also related to Diazinon, also with known extreme toxic effects," said Young.

Diazinon was banned in the US in 1990.

This pesticide is extremely toxic to wildlife, particularly birds. The TEA maintains that Diazinon is also toxic to unborn children and infants under six months.

Diazinon was used at UVic until 1998.

"Prior to 1998 Diazinon was occasionally used," said Jerry Robson, executive director of UVic's Facilities Management. "Since 1998 we have ceased to use it."

Malathion was used once, Benomyl used twice and Roundup used on 25 occasions from March, 2001, through November, 2001, said Robson.

Robson admits the university uses pesticides but said the chemicals are only used in specific cases, dictated by Victoria's Integrated Pest Management plan (IPM). This plan, created in 1992, is part of the city's parks division and seeks to reduce the number and level of pesticides used throughout Victoria.

In order for facilities to use pesticides, they must comply with the regulations set by Victoria's IPM.

Plan managers recently claimed it reduced pesticide use in the city by 97 per cent. But UVic student Ingmar Lee questioned the claim, investigated it and later found it to be false.

"I started crunching numbers . . . it turned out that they had included gross weight of weed and feed fertilizer," said Lee. "When you look at a fair calculation, they haven't even reduced it by 50 per cent."

After taking the claim to IPM director Michelle Gorman, Lee was able to prove the numbers were improperly tallied.

"IPM admitted that the numbers were deceiving," he said.

Although UVic only uses pesticides in specific areas, the health hazards of the chemicals are far-reaching.

"The ramifications of using pesticides are potentially huge, because many of them bioaccumulate in the food chain," said Nancy Turner, a UVic professor and ethnobotanist. "They can harm the birds that eat the insects or the bees that pollinate affected flowers."

Turner emphasizes pesticides are not specific to unwanted organisms.

"In my view, chemical compounds that are designed to kill things are poisons, and if poisons are bad for other life forms they are probably bad for humans as well," said Turner.

According to Robson, pesticides were sprayed on non-native species such as rhododendrons and roses.

Geoff Ray, outreach coordinator for the pesticide program at City Green Victoria, suggests there are many other options for pest control besides chemicals.

If the university planted native species instead of the non-native variety, the plants may not require as much maintenance and attention as their non-native counterparts. This would further reduce the need for pesticides, said Ray.

"Native plants can be easier to maintain, be pest and disease resistant, and conserve water," he said. "Soil building, plant selection and placement, and watering practices all work together to form a healthy garden. This can be made easier by planting native species."

Ray also noted by planting native species, UVic can avoid pests without pesticides.

"The secret to dealing with pests is prevention," he said. "By sticking to reliable organic gardening practices and working with nature rather than against it, you will have fewer pest problems and have less need to use pesticides."

Lee believes in order for UVic to be environmentally conscious, it must stop using harmful chemicals.

"They have to apply for a new permit every year," said Lee. "They're looking for a fight and they've got a fight."

Ray also believes the use of pesticides is negative and unnecessary. "There are many communities across the country who have committed to be pesticide free," said Ray. "UVic should be a leader in ours."

Feb. 23 musicians asked to keep opinions to themselves

by John Thompson

Songs of solidarity kept the tone festive on Feb. 23, but performers at the big rally were asked to keep some political views to themselves. Bryan Skinner, singer for local six-piece folk band Shillelagh, said he was asked by a BC Federation of Labour (BCFed) member to avoid the term "general strike" while on stage.

"I was told not to editorialize about a general strike from the stage," he said.

Besides being a folk musician, Skinner is a member of the International Workers of the World (IWW), a radical union also known as the Wobblies. He said it was important to play the show but remains critical of some of the BCFed's tactics.

"The ultimate weapon that we have is to withdraw our labour altogether, until all our needs are met," he said.

Geoff Meggs, communications officer for the BCFed, said the question of a general strike was divisive between some union leaders, and it would have been inappropriate for the tactic to be endorsed from the stage.

"We made sure there were some limits on what was said up there," he said. "I'm not allowed to campaign on my personal views either."

Despite the spat over the general strike, both Skinner and Meggs agree on the rally's outcome.

"There's a lot of good people at the BCFed," Skinner said. "They got 30,000 there. That's to be applauded."

"Make sure to mention we really enjoyed the music," Meggs added. "It was great."

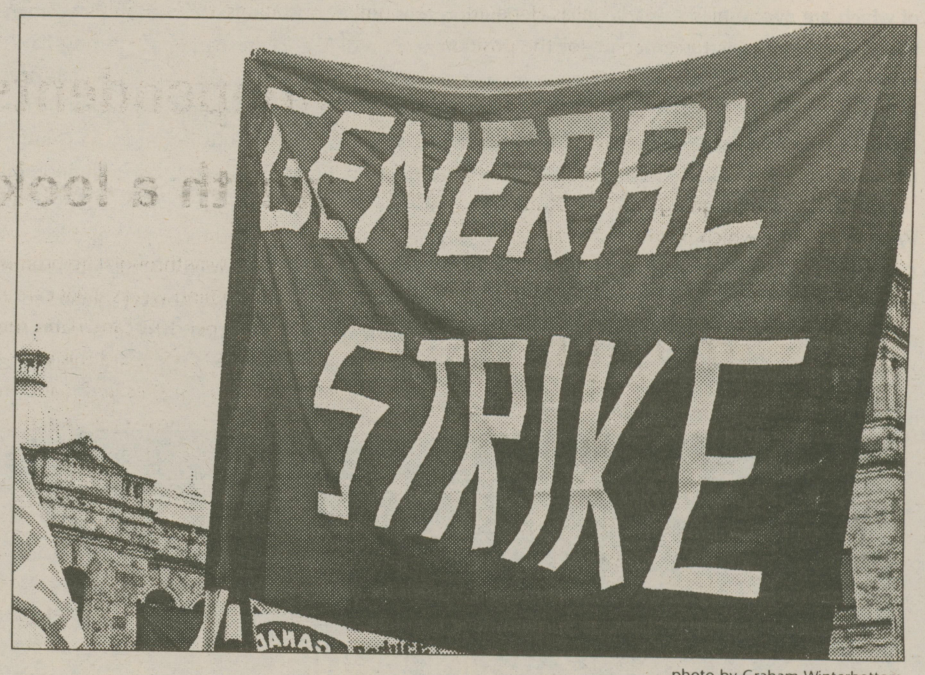

photo by Graham Winterbottom

Numerous banners and chanting protesters called for a general strike, but the musicians on stage were not allowed to voice their support.

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Safety of sex toys questioned

by Julia Smith

The sinister secret about sex toys is out.

Vancouver's Womyn's Wear is blowing the whistle on the sex toy industry, which it says pushes toxic lubricants and toys on the unsuspecting public.

The adult novelty store houses a "scary cupboard" dedicated to collecting dangerous dildos and vibrators.

After a few months these toys, which are made from soft plastic or rubber, begin to fragment and ooze.

Most of these products contain chemical phthalates. They can be released from the product into the body when pressure is applied. Phthalates have been proven to cause liver, kidney and testicular damage in lab rats.

Health Canada pulled child soothers and dog toys containing a high concentration of phthalates off the market in 1997. They did not pull sex toys made of the same materials.

According to an earlier inquiry, Health Canada has no interest in investigating sex toys and maintains there is no grounds for further investigation.

But German chemist Hans Ulrich Krieg disagrees.

He tested numerous sex toys, most of which are available in Canada, and found many contained a concentration of phthalates of 243,000 parts per million (ppm).

In Canada a daily exposure of 1,000 to 3,000 ppm is considered safe.

Kass King, retail manager of Womyn's Wear, criticized Health Canada for its response to the potential dangers of sex toys.

"They care about your kids. That's good. They care about your dog. That's good. But they don't give a damn about your pussy."

Womyn's Wear focuses on women-friendly products. The most recommended toys are made of silicone.

Silicone is safe, easy to clean and many products come with a lifetime guarantee. Womyn's Wear also sells latex vibrators but warns customers latex is porous and more difficult to clean.

> [Health Canada cares] about your kids. That's good. They care about your dog. That's good. But they don't give a damn about your pussy.
>
> *Kass King*

King explains that latex toys shouldn't be shared or used in both the vagina and the anus because bacteria can be transported.

William Dyson, a doctor with UVic Health Services, also warned about sharing toys.

"There is no difference in sharing a penis and sharing a toy."

STDs can be transferred through toys and some, such as Hepatitis B, can live outside of the body for a long period of time.

Silicone toys must be boiled for more than three minutes or wiped down with a toy cleaner, such as Adult Play Toy Cleaner. Cleaned properly, the toys won't transport bacteria or STDs.

Dyson also warned about spermicide chemical nonoxynol-9, which is used in many lubricants.

"In the test tube it reduced the activity of HIV. The reality has been nonoxynol-9 is extremely irritating."

Many women are allergic to nonoxynol-9. It can cause irritation and burning.

A study done on sex trade workers in Africa proved women who used lubricants or lubricated condoms containing nonoxynol-9 were 50 per cent more likely to be infected with HIV. Nonoxynol-9 attracts the mucus membrane in the vagina and anus. This causes open sores and kills off natural antibodies.

"All natural protection is lost," said Dyson.

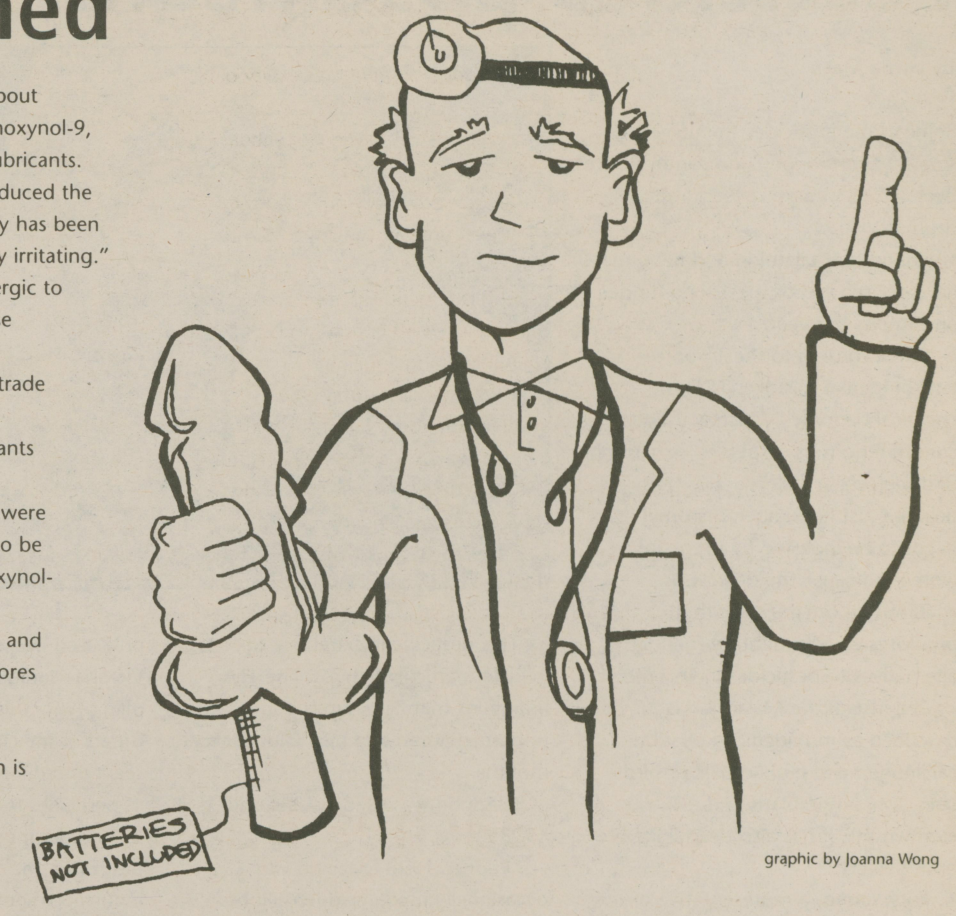
The Ministry of Health released a consumer alert in Sept. 2000, warning of the dangers and ineffectiveness of nonoxynol-9.

Products containing nonoxynol-9 include: Trojan ribbed condoms, Lifestyles Spermicidal Lubricated Condom, Hardcover Ultra Condom, Gynol II Contraceptive Jelly, Advantage 24 (Vaginal Contraceptive Gel) and Delfen Foam (Spermicide Creme).

Women also need to be aware that most flavoured lubricants contain sugar, which stimulates yeast production in the vagina.

Though still safe to use anally or during oral sex with men, flavoured lubes should be avoided by women prone to yeast infections. Flavoured lubes which do not contain sugar include some Karma Sutra products and Oh My! Lubricants.

King believes education can empower consumers to make safe decisions.



graphic by Joanna Wong

She said the most important thing is for people to feel comfortable in sex shops.

Womyn's Wear staff are available to help with information books displayed beside products. The business only sells vibrators and dildos made of latex and silicone.

The toys are displayed without packaging so customers can touch the product.

Victoria stores Kiss and Tell, The Love Stop and The Romance Shop are aware of nonoxynol-9 and sugared-lube dangers. They separate their products and warn customers of possible irritation. All offer tips for cleaning toys safely.

Even so, none of these stores is warning customers about phthalates.

The Love Stop said cyber skin products are their bestseller. There are numerous manufactures of cyber skin, including Hustler and Virtual Touch.

Cyber skin Bami, a big seller at The Love Stop, comes in a package displaying a buff, nearly naked man. The side reads, "This massive ebony cock is ready for some serious action . . . all 13 inches."

King warns about the dangers of products like cyber skin.

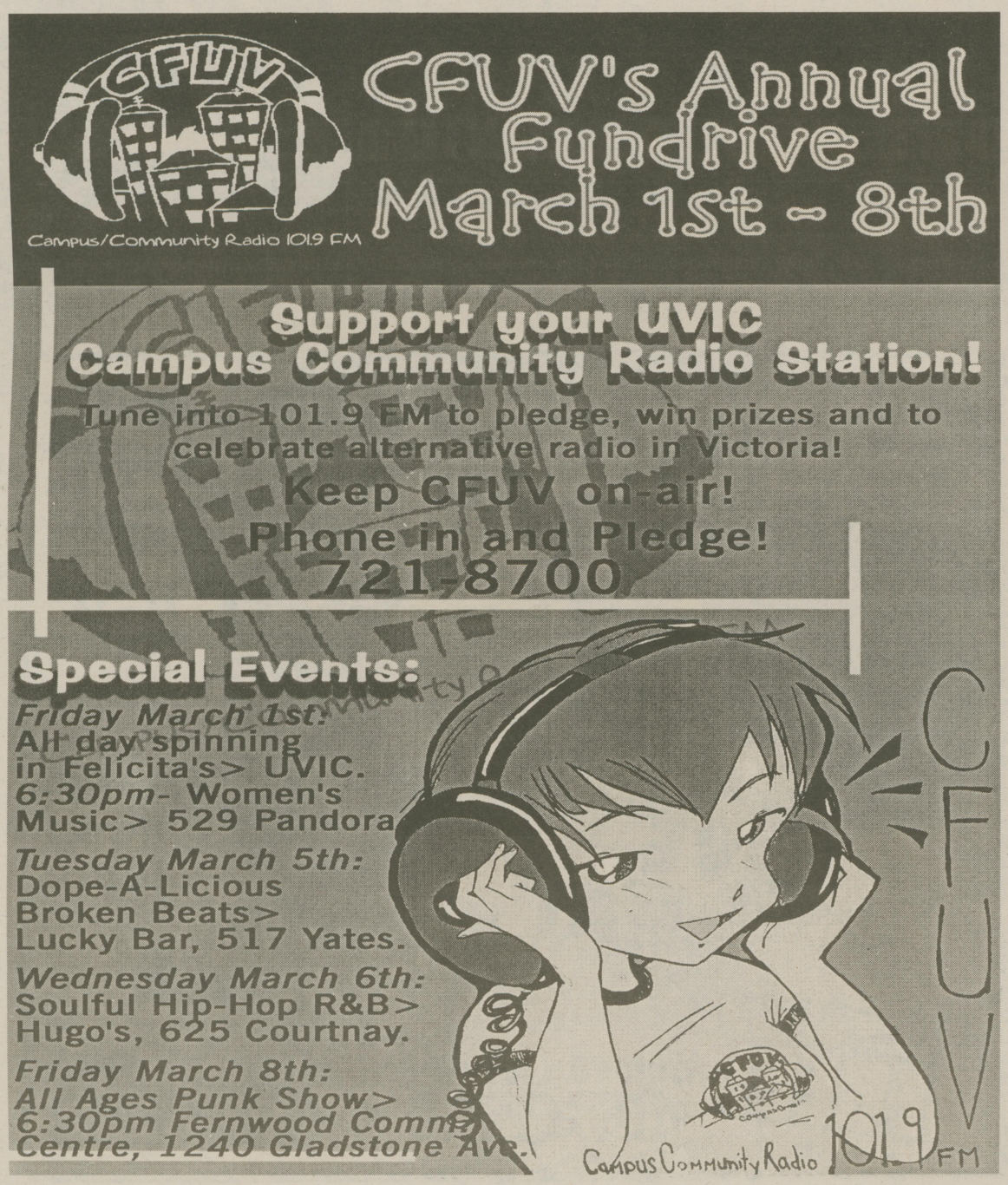
"There is so much on mainstream retail that is garbage and toxic."

Kiss and Tell doesn't carry cyber skin toys but it does carry products containing phthalates.

Linda Preziuso of The Romance Shop said she extensively researches the products she sells.

The store carries a selection of toys and pornography. It sells cyber skin, but Preziuso stressed buyers remove the talc powder included with the toy. Talc powder preserves soft toys from drying out or fragmenting but has been proven to cause cervical cancer.

"We are whistle blowers because we want to talk about it," said King about the health hazards of sex toys. "We are not taught to talk about it."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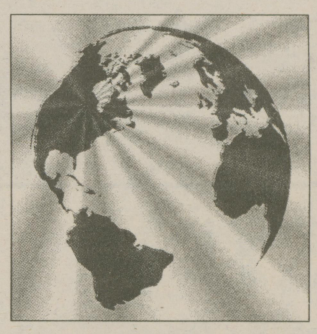
6:30pm Fernwood Comm. Centre, 1240 Gladstone Ave.
CFUV
Campus Community Radio 101.9 FM



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Government recall efforts start early in B.C.

by Kevin Groves

The face of the B.C. Legislature could change this winter if Peter Kelly and other disgruntled voters get their way.

The Nanaimo resident launched a campaign to draw attention to the possibility of recalling B.C. MLAs. He put together an online petition asking voters to endorse a recall of government MLAs based on the view the election victory of Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberals was a fraud.

Though the petition is not a legal document, it already has 20,137 signatures from across the province and more people sign each day.

Kelly said he started the petition in January to provide an outlet for what he said was growing public frustration about recent B.C. government policy.

He added his petition's expiry date was chosen deliberately to coincide with Nov. 18, the first day legal petitions to recall B.C. MLAs could be signed.

"People are angry now and they can't wait until November to put their names on a petition," Kelly said. "Even though [the petition] has no legal bearing it's good enough to vent some of that building anger."

The many government policies Kelly and his signatories take issue with include the $6 training wage instituted last November and the 11,700 civil service cuts last January.

"I've seen people [who signed the petition] who were Green Party supporters, NDP supporters and even BC Liberal supporters," Kelly said. "So the anger is widespread and building quickly."

According to Elections BC spokeswoman Jennifer Miller, B.C. is the only province in Canada that can recall its MLAs. Petitions can be applied for from Elections BC 18 months after any B.C. election.

Once a canvasser has received a petition, they have 60 days to collect signatures and have to get signed support from 40 per cent of registered voters who voted in the last election.

Elections BC then verifies the signatures after the deadline. If there are enough valid signatures on the petition, the MLA ceases to hold office and a by-election must be called within 90 days. A recalled MLA can be a candidate in the by-election.

Miller said 11 attempts have been made to recall B.C. MLAs since 1995 but to date none succeeded.

Independent MLA Paul Reitsma resigned in June 1998 during a recall verification in his Parksville-Qualicum riding. Reitsma resigned after he admitted writing phony letters to the media praising himself and slagging his political opponents.

Miller said there might be a chance at success in two B.C. constituencies where the victory margins were very close. One is the Victoria-Beacon Hill riding where BC Liberal MLA Jeff Bray won by only 35 votes.

But Bray said he is unconcerned by possible recall campaigns this fall.

"If all I was worried about was recall, then I would not be doing my job which is to represent my constituents and work hard to make this province number one," Bray said.

The other constituency that may be affected is the Victoria-Hillside riding of BC Liberal MLA Sheila Orr, who beat her NDP counterpart by 82 votes.

Norman Ruff, a UVic Political Scientist, said he does not expect recall attempts in the two Victoria ridings to be successful since each have over 30,000 registered voters, which would make getting the necessary number of signatures difficult.

"I suspect the Kootenay's might be more interesting due to deeper community concerns over health care cutbacks, but if the current anger is sustained to November then I fully expect a number of recall campaigns around the province," he said.

To view the online petition, visit www.petitiononline.com/2005/petition.html.

Department teaches Beatles appreciation before voice skills

by Noelle King

UVic's School of Music carries a diverse pop culture course selection, like Beatles Appreciation, but limits practical courses for voice students.

Some voice students are crying "Help! I need somebody" but what they say they really need are more course offerings.

"It's not a good program to be in if you want to be a professional singer," said Julie Lewis, a fourth-year voice student. She added it has been a struggle to get the courses she needed for graduation.

The balancing act began 10 years ago when the music department had financial trouble. The provincial government provided money, on the condition that more students would be drawn to the department through a certain number of general interest music courses.

Michael Longton, director of UVic's School of Music, said his department only allowed music majors, with only one course accessible to non-music students. Now it offers 53 courses for music students and seven general and pop culture courses.

Longton said the department had to make some difficult decisions.

"We should be offering something for the university as a whole . . . [but] we have to try and balance it."

Important vocal courses like Lyric Diction were only offered once in four years and Vocal Pedagogy has not been offered at all over the same period, said Lewis.

She added that Conducting and Orchestration, courses required for a comprehensive general music degree, do not have enough sections.

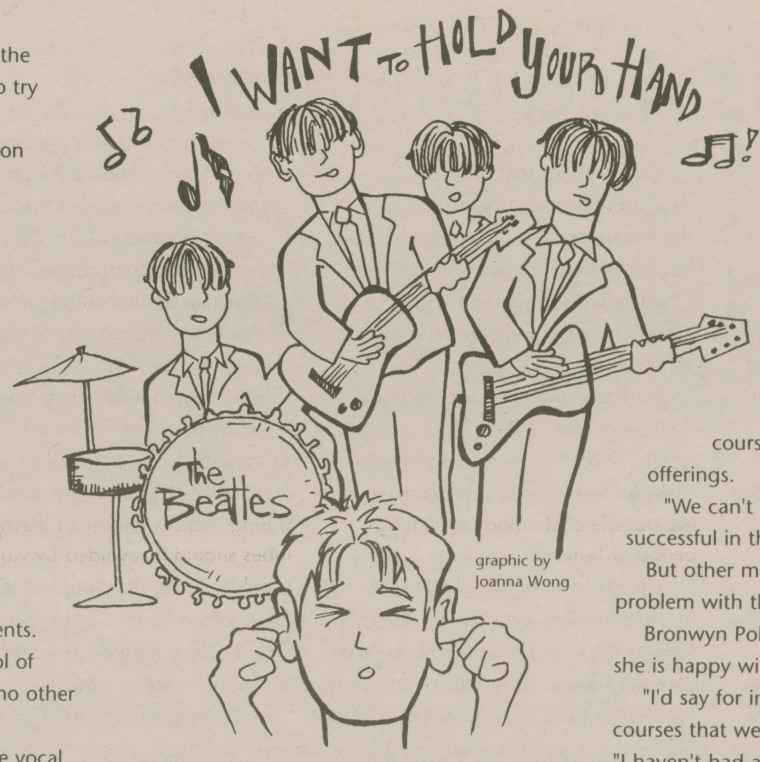
Sessional instructors are not permitted to teach these because of contracts with professors.

"It seems that the School is more concerned about the teachers' needs than students' needs," said Lewis.

Longton agreed that the department's curriculum structure does hurt voice students.

Voice is an expensive area of the School of Music, since vocal students need courses no other music student needs, said Longton.

He added that he hopes to improve the vocal program but believes increasing the pop culture courses was "a perfectly reasonable thing to do."



graphic by Joanna Wong

Colleen Eccleston, a sessional instructor who teaches pop culture music courses, said the music students have top priority in the music department, but the department is also required to offer courses for non-music students.

Student response to courses such as History of Rock 'n' Roll and Contemporary Songwriting have been overwhelmingly good, said Eccleston.

Some voice students wonder if these pop culture courses cut into their own course offerings.

"We can't get the education we want to be successful in this field we're in," Lewis said.

But other music students said they have no problem with the curriculum.

Bronwyn Pollock, a piano major at UVic, said she is happy with the music department.

"I'd say for instrumentalists that we have all the courses that we need to be getting," Pollock said. "I haven't had any trouble getting into courses I've needed."

Future growth of UVic discussed by academic and architect

by John Thompson

The future size and shape of UVic was discussed on Tuesday, Feb 19, at a forum that featured local academics and architects.

Environmental Studies director Eric Higgs and Victoria architect Franc D'Ambrosio spoke at "Smart Growth: Creating a community vision for the University of Victoria," which was organized by the UVic Student Society

The university's original campus development plan, which dictates how the university can grow, develop and use energy was made in 1961.

The Smart Growth forum was organized in anticipation of the upcoming public consultation for the new plan, which will chart the course of development for the next 15 years.

Higgs said the UVic campus has expanded by over one million square feet over the last decade. The discussions focused on alternatives to future sprawl.

Given the current rate of growth, Higgs said "it's incomprehensible what this place will look like in 40 years."

Sarah Webb, UVSS director of academics, said smart growth was about "deterring sprawl and encouraging community."

"There's a potential for growing and building communities without sprawl," she said.

Since 1990 UVic has experienced growth at 2.5 per cent per year, Webb said. The university is currently targeting a two per cent growth rate.

Higgs recommended that an institution's future development be informed by its past, but recognized the limits of applying this to a relatively new institution like UVic. "I was born before the ground was broken at this campus," he said.

Instead, he suggested UVic could refer to the history of universities as institutions, with roots dating back to the medieval period, for inspiration for the future. He spoke strongly against the trend of modeling post-secondary institutions after corporations and instead suggested they can be "beacons for a culture searching for an identity and meaning."

"Universities are at their worst when they follow, rather than lead," he said.

D'Ambrosio spoke about his experience surveying architecture around the world and showed slides of different types of planning. In some cases, institutions can grow "with grace and dignity," taking into account the natural environment and fostering social interaction. In other cases these positive qualities are stifled and "negative chaos ensues," he said.

He said UVic already has a reputation for progressive building design and further innovations would depend on the will of the community.

"Your engineering office and lab wings are buildings that are covered in international publications as energy efficient and progressive," he said.

He also said an essential part of successful future development is community involvement.

"Participation and understanding of the process is, I think, essential," he said.

But he acknowledged the limitations of planning. "You can't build a building on campus to heal the sick or provide food for the hungry," he said. "You can only make a more comfortable setting."

The forum also promoted "A Path Less Taken," one of the 11 different proposals for UVic's new campus development plan. It can also be viewed online, at www.polisproject.org.

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Trudeau fellowships to support top researchers

by Mark Greenan

OTTAWA (CUP) – Federal Industry Minister Allan Rock announced a $125-million endowment for the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation last week.

The fund fulfills a commitment made in the government's Innovation Strategy to create a scholarship program to rival the Rhodes scholarship. The program also fulfills a promise made after the former prime minister's death to create a legacy in his memory.

In a speech that quoted Trudeau's famed "Just Society" speech, Rock said the foundation would be the most appropriate tribute to Trudeau.

"We have the sense that Pierre Trudeau would have little interest in the bronze or stone monuments that traditionally commemorate our past leaders," he said. "He would have wanted us to look ahead, to inspire young people, to build a better future in Canada and from Canada for the world."

Every year, the foundation will award up to 25 fellowships, valued at $50,000 per year for four years. Also, up to five mentors will be appointed in a given year to counsel fellowship winners. Five additional awards will be given to recognize internationally recognized scholars at Canadian universities.

Winners be chosen from a variety of disciplines and will work in areas relating to Trudeau's personal interests including, but not limited to, human rights and social justice, federalism and Canada and the world.

Rock said the program is designed to both attract top students from around the world and retain top Canadian researchers. Seventy-five per cent of recipients will be Canadian.

The foundation will be administered by a 15-member board of directors, composed of many distinguished Canadians, including three former premiers and three current university presidents. Trudeau's youngest son Sacha will also serve on the board.

Sacha, who was involved in the development of the foundation, was present in the House of Commons gallery for the announcement.

"My father had great expectations for this country. He profoundly believed in our capacity to surpass ourselves in the creation of a just society," he said outside the House. "These fellowships and the community they will create are an essential tool in the pursuit of this vision."

Student groups had differing opinions on the announcement. The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) praised the program.

"Obviously, we think it's great. It will ensure a legacy for our longest-serving prime minister," said CASA national director Liam Arbuckle. "If we want to be competitive internationally then we have to have programs like that."

However, Arbuckle said that the performance of the foundation must be closely monitored.

"It's one of those things that sound great, but so did Millennium [Scholarship Foundation] when it came," he said, adding there still needs to be more support for students in the social sciences and the humanities.

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) criticized the foundation as "gimmicky."

"This has all the hallmarks of the public relations vehicle known as the Millennium Scholarship fund," said Ian Boyko, CFS national chair. "It's a ploy for the Liberal Party as a whole and for certain individuals in the party. It's publicity all around."

Noting that federal funding for social sciences research is much lower than funding for research in the natural and health sciences, Boyko said that the program would not address the problems facing researchers.

"I think once people get past Pierre Elliott Trudeau's name, they'll see what a shallow attempt this is to fund research," he said.

Black law school students say fee hike is discriminatory

by Kelly Holloway

TORONTO (CUP) – Black law students asked the Ontario Human Rights Commission on Friday to investigate the University of Toronto law school's proposal to nearly double tuition fees. They believe the increase would be discriminatory.

The Black Law Students' Association of Canada says the law school's plan to increase fees from the present rate of $12,000 per year to $22,000 discriminates against black students who come predominantly from lower-income families. According to the association, the average annual income for a black family in Toronto is $25,500.

"This is a community response, because that's what I always thought was missing from the process as it went through the law school," said Louise James, a second-year law school student at U of T and member of the university's black law student society.

"There was no connection to the public at large in terms of its relation to the law school and the public service that a public law school provides."

Part of the law school's "five-year plan" to grow into a higher-calibre institution is a student-initiated report on diversity. This includes a three-year working group that looks at diversity as well as specific guidelines for recruitment officers to deal with diversity.

But Samer Muscati, who, through a group called Students in Law for the Advancement of Minorities (SLAM), was involved in the creation of the report on diversity, says that SLAM does not endorse the overall report.

"I don't see minority students becoming rich all of a sudden," he said.

James said the segment on diversity doesn't get to the heart of the matter.

"They don't address the problem that is going to be posed by the tuition hike, in terms of attracting more students of diverse backgrounds and improving their experience at law school.

"Certainly having a large debt doesn't make your law school experience as fun as it should be."

Muscati was involved in minority outreach day at the law school last week, where students from high schools came to feel out U of T as a potential university for studying law. According to Muscati, the price of tuition was a major worry for young students from low-income families.

"That seemed to be a primary issue for them. Everybody was asking about the $20,000 tuition price tag."

Muscati said he found it difficult to defend the university in light of the proposed fee hike.

"It was hard for us to explain that they should incur all of these debts to go to law school and it was a tough position for us to be in."

Both James and Muscati said they believe the proposed increase is a national issue and say other universities could follow suit.

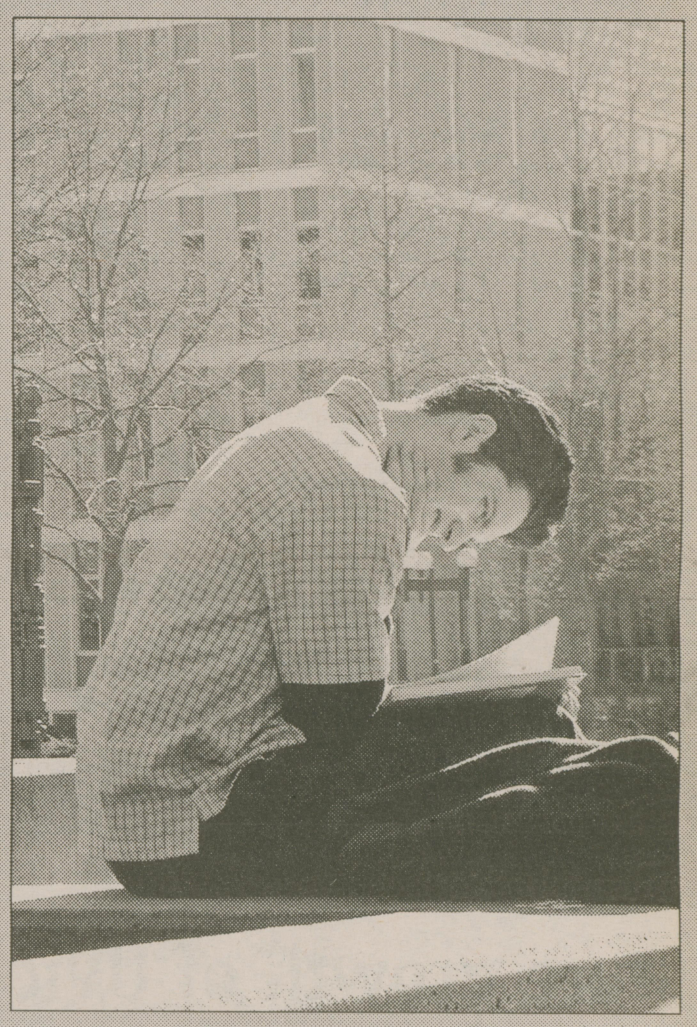

photo by Matt

Students hit the books and enjoyed the sunshine after "reading" break.

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NEWS BRIEFS

by Suzanne Beaubien

Camp Campbell hearing rushed through

The B.C. Supreme Court rushed through an enforcement order Tuesday afternoon, forcing the eviction of protesters at Camp Campbell.

Crown attorney Lisa Mrozinski said the hearing was pushed through because the legislature lawn was being destroyed by protesters planting a vegetable garden. The hearing had originally been scheduled for March 5

One hour's notice was given to the protesters and about a dozen were present during the hearing.

As of Wednesday morning some of the campers had peacefully left the grounds. While police had yet made no move to arrest protesters, they were present during an altercation between a CBC cameraperson and a protester.

Protesters set up camp on Feb. 6 during the annual student day of action. Over the three-week stay there have been roughly 50 campers as well as 100 community residents supporting the public action.

Cherry trees chopped

A permanent fixture in many UVic calendar pictures are the beautiful flowering cherry trees in front of the Clearihue building. But over reading break, the 30-year old trees were replaced with younger pseudo-camellias.

Tony James, Facilities Management Supervisor said the cherry trees had been deteriorating for years and have shrunk significantly from poor soil quality and vandalism.

The flowering cherry has a finite life span of about 30 years and the Clearihue building's trees were rapidly deteriorating.

The new trees grow upright and should fare better in the student environment, said James.

"Given that a truck doesn't run into them, they should live a lot longer than the cherry trees," said James.

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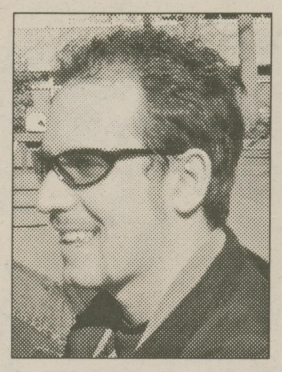
on the spot

Do you think this year's UVSS did a good job?

compiled by Sue and Matt

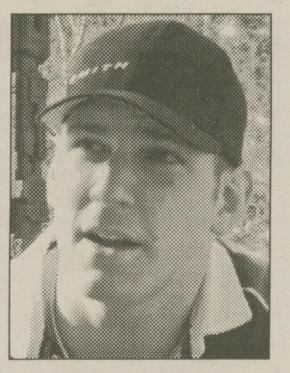


Ian Kay
5th year psychology

From what I saw, the government here was quite active. I guess I don't take a lot of time to see what is going on, but they seemed quite active.

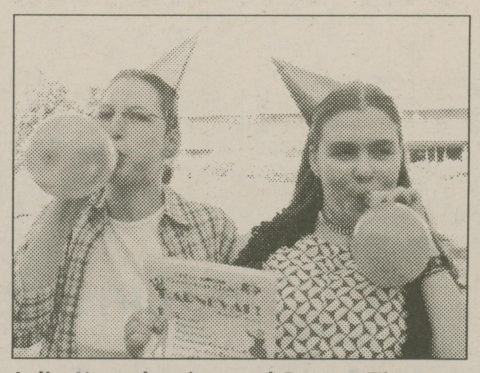
Danielle Marcinek
4th year music

The student government? I'm a music student and I'm usually in MacLaurin, so I don't know what's going on.



Brett Pinkerton
2nd year economics

I really couldn't tell you. It's the same as it was last year.



Julie Kesselmeier and Penny Tipper
3rd & 4th year German literature

I don't know really. I just know that there is some trouble with tuition fees.

Well, lots of energy went into the rally, and that was good.

Peter James and Nancy Towns
3rd & 4th year anthropology

That's a tough question. I think they need to do a better job of getting out to the student population, because I think we don't know if they did a good job or not.

I would like to give a yes or no answer. But I'm really not aware of all the activities they're involved in.

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EDITORIAL

Hockey fans and protest marchers not that different

Victoria residents shouted themselves hoarse this weekend in memorable displays of emotion, enthusiasm and community.

On Saturday many hit the legislature to share a rousing and symbolic refusal to accept our provincial government's recent action. Then on Sunday we hoisted beer and ate pretzels, and watched Canada whup American ass on the ice.

While obviously different on various levels, these events were meaningful, inspiring and empowering for many who took part.

A lot of people watched the gold medal Olympic game (8.662 million Canadians). And a lot of people came out for the Feb. 23 mobilization in Victoria (likely the biggest protest in our province's history).

The game allowed us to transcend real life. The protest allowed us, for one day, to feel like we were a part of something meaningful.

Most people need to get over what they feel is a downwardly spiraling national and international situation and a toxic environment wrought with agents of disease and danger.

There is a bleakness pervading our psyche. This is a tumultuous time. We choose our battles carefully and call for a nightcap. The other battles take too much time and feel hopeless to fight.

How many people, for example, are informed about and actively fighting for our country to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. Maybe not as many.

Perhaps it's not such a bad thing that more people know who Theo Fleury is than know what the Kyoto Protocol is. These days there is a need for security and a craving for community – and this can be developed through a sense of national pride. Faced with the horror of terrorism, war and pestilence we turn to our national past-time and the joy and security of an unthreatening sport.

But there are other ways to address this need. The protest the day before was one way, but many critics (including Premier Gordon Campbell) discounted it as ineffectual and hollow.

It's up to us to prove these critics wrong.

These sentiments of community and cooperation have to be deep, powerful and sustained to effect real change.

Yes, we know, life is difficult. Student loans, jobs, partners and other assorted responsibilities muddle all of our lives. But we are in a privileged position, living in Canada. We can sit back in our cushy lives and make believe the world's problems, the environment, the war, the rich white man running the show, are other people's responsibility.

Maybe we should make more time for problems on a grand scale.

How are we going to get that essay or take-home test done as well as think about human rights violations perpetrated in China? Or work full-time to finish school yet learn more about the Kyoto Protocol and how George Bush is fucking it up.

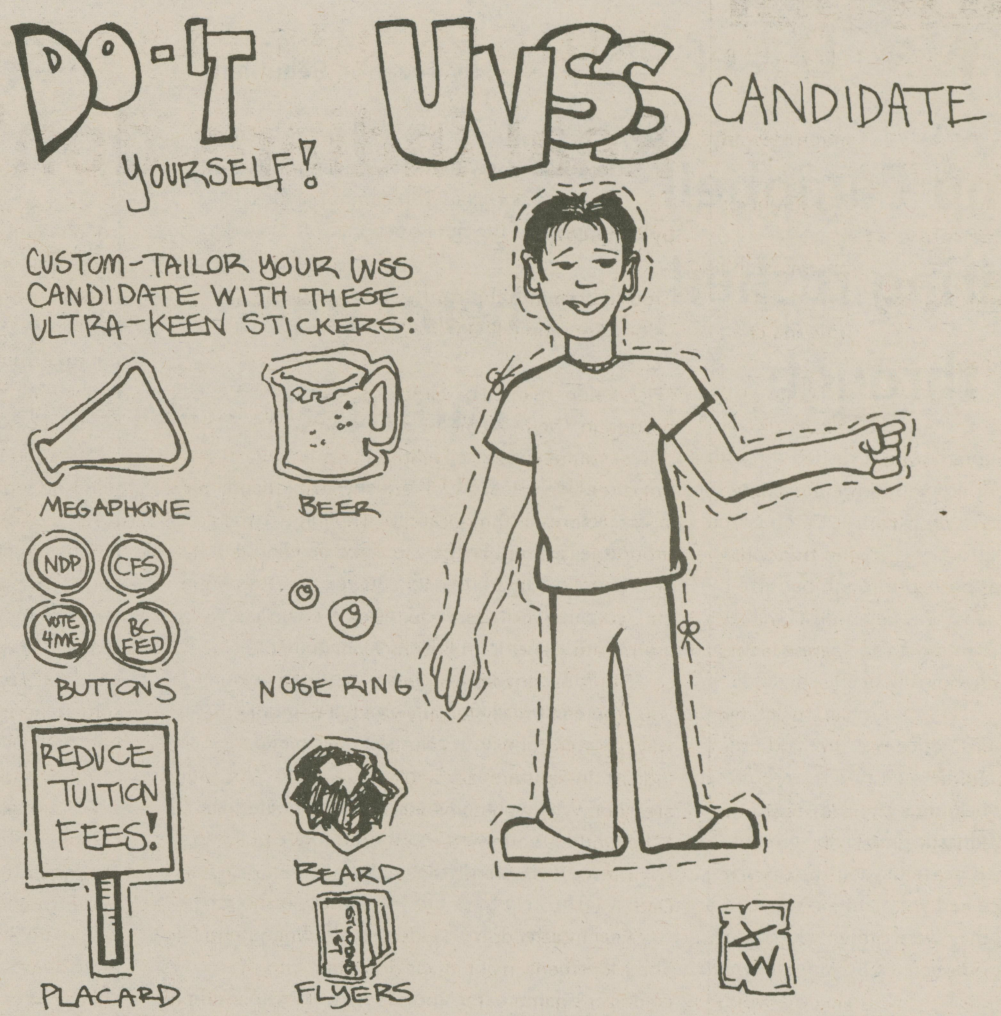
Admittedly this change in priority is a tough sell, but perhaps not impossible, especially given the strong emotions we all saw last weekend.

Let's shout from cars, revel in the streets, reclaim public space and keep the flame burning. Camaraderie can be beautiful and may even lead to an improved world that we'd all like to see.

Life out there can be pretty confusing. Overwhelming even. Perhaps it's time we evolved beyond specific and temporary expressions of community and citizenship and made them a way of life.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at editorial meetings, every Monday at 12:30 p.m. in SUB b110a. Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

Don't like what you read? Write, write, write, gimme gimme gimme: **martlet@uvic.ca**



STUDENT VOICE

Line between media and BC Liberals blurred

by Ben Isitt

"A newspaper's first duty is to provide the public with accurate information. Newspapers should correct inaccuracies promptly."

– Clause 1, B.C. Press Council "Code of Practice"

A recent *Times Colonist* story implied that Camp Campbell participants were uncooperative with organizers of the successful Feb. 23 labour rally at the legislature. As a journalist and graduate history student who has been involved in this protest action since Feb. 6, I feel it is necessary to set the record straight: there was cooperation between Camp Campbell and organizers of the B.C. Federation of Labour rally.

The newspaper's lead statement – "Despite pleas from organizers and police, Camp Campbell remained intact during Saturday's rally" – is patently false. Neither rally organizers nor police "pleaded" for the camp to be removed on Feb. 23.

On the morning of Feb. 19, when the Liberals brought down a budget violating numerous election promises, I met personally with Jim Sinclair, president of the B.C. Federation of Labour. We discussed a plan to reduce the size of the camp to make way for tens of thousands of demonstrators. This plan was carried out.

A group of trade unionists helped rebuild our kitchen tent on the afternoon of Feb. 22. Hundreds of union and community members donated food, materials and money to the camp before, during and after the rally. As the Feb. 23 demonstration concluded, tents were again erected on the legislature lawn.

There was no tension between participants at Camp Campbell, the union members and the larger labour movement. On the contrary, campers served food and coffee and provided music and a warm fire to demonstrators as they exercised their Charter right to peaceful dissent.

I think the *Times Colonist's* misrepresentation of Camp Campbell represents a larger trend in the corporate media to delegitimize collective action against the Campbell government. A tent city has been erected on the legislature lawn because this government has embarked on a programme of cutbacks and privatization that was nowhere in its election platform.

The BC Liberals must be held to account before the 2005 general election. Citizens are therefore engaging in a 24-hour-a-day protest action until the government upholds its election commitments to respect collective agreements and refrain from job and service cuts. Protesting in February in Victoria requires an infrastructure for warmth, shelter and food to survive the incessant rain, sleet and wind.

Rather than dialogue with the demonstrators, the Liberal government and Attorney General Geoff Plant have attempted to criminalize our peaceful dissent with a court injunction. The BC Civil Liberties Association has retained a constitutional lawyer who hopes to have this injunction overturned.

I would ask the police and the courts: Who are the real criminals here? A Liberal cabinet and caucus that lied its way into office, or citizens who are enduring the elements in an attempt to hold them to account? A government that is inflicting economic violence on the populace or peaceful citizens who are mobilizing popular opposition to a destructive corporate agenda? If any charges are to be laid and if anyone is to be arrested, it should be the Liberal MLAs who committed election fraud last May.

If the BC Liberals cannot honour their election promises, a new general election should be called to test the public's support for a mandate of cutbacks and privatization.

It is no secret that Israel Asper, owner and executive chairman of CanWest Global, was leader of the Manitoba Liberal party. His son David Asper sits on the board of trustees of the Fraser Institute, an organization committed to the elimination of social programs. I do not expect positive coverage from the Aspers' B.C. organs: *The Times Colonist, Vancouver Sun, Vancouver Province,* CH television, Global B.C. television, *Nanaimo Daily News, Kamloops Daily News, Prince George Citizen, Trail Daily Times,* CHBC Kelowna television, and *The National Post.*

However, given the Aspers' near-monopoly over the daily media in this province, I would expect some commitment to the core journalistic principles of fairness, accuracy and integrity in reporting. These principles mark the distinction between information and propaganda.

I believe coverage of Camp Campbell and other actions against the untruthful Campbell government has deviated from professional journalism. A recent editorial in the *Times Colonist* stated that citizens needed to accept the Liberals' "austerity" programme.

But why was Gordon Campbell silent on this agenda during the election campaign last May? How has he managed to "lead" B.C. from consecutive budget surpluses and a fair degree of social services to record deficits, cutbacks and privatization? Did he plan to do this all along? Why did he deceive the electorate of B.C.? How was the New Democratic Party able to balance the budget and provide social services? Responsible journalists should be asking these questions.

The separation between the state and the media is an integral ingredient for a healthy democracy. In B.C. at the present, these lines have become blurred and the need for the citizenry to read, think, communicate and act critically is more important than ever.

Alberta and Ontario may have followed the path of public-sector cutbacks and corporate privatization, despite citizen opposition. But British Columbians need to send a loud and clear message to Gordon Campbell and his government: it will not happen here.

Ben Isitt is a community activist and a Fellow with the Department of History at the University of Victoria. A past news editor at the Martlet, he completed an undergraduate degree in history and journalism.

[2001/2002]
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lisa helps
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news editors
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contributors
wil george, mark greenan, chris hindmarch-watson, kelly holloway, noelle king, käthe lemon, lana lowe, kristin mcintosh, matt, crystal pinarello, emmanuel raymundo, mark samcoe, john trenholme

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address
po box 3035, university of victoria
victoria, BC V8W 3P3
phone
newsroom/production: 721-8360
editors: 721-8361
advertising: 721-8359/884-7081
fax: 472-4556 or 721-8728

online
www.martlet.org
martlet@uvic.ca

INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES

Real indians don't ski

by Lana Lowe

"You're born into this shit. You are what you are."
– Tony Soprano (HBO's *The Soprano's*)

"Pick a side, man." For some, there is no middle ground in The Movement; in the fight for Indigenous rights, you're either Indigenous or you're not. If you're not, then you are one of Them – a white man, a moh-la, the colonizer, the oppressor. There is no middle ground: either you are or you aren't. If you are Dene, or Cree, or Mi'kmaq, or Mohawk or Nuu-chah-nulth etc., you are NOT Canadian. "Pick a side, man." What am I? I am Dene. I am British. What am I?

"Don't tell anyone you're an Indian; they won't like you. You can't really tell anyway. It'll be easier that way, growing up is hard enough as it is." No one likes Indians. Indians are lazy; Indians are drunks; Indians are poor. Why would anyone want to be an Indian? "The world is your oyster, you can be whatever you want to be." Anything, that is, except an Indian. Oh Dad.

"Real Indians don't ski – skiing is a white thing." In The Movement, real Indians don't buy into the colonizer's game – real Indians fight the expansion of ski resorts into Indigenous territory. Real Indians don't work for the Man. Real Indians don't go to white man's schools and churches. Real Indians live on reserves. Real Indians don't vote. Real Indians don't need an Indian Status card. Real Indians are not white.

"Master of Arts in Indigenous Governance. Indigenous Governance? There's no such thing." Oh Dad. The colonial mentality, as explained by Dr. Taiaiake Alfred, is a "mental state that blocks recognition of the existence of traditional [Indigenous] perspectives." That's it! My dad will never understand; he is so racist, so arrogant, he is the epitome of the colonial mentality. Fuck 'em.

"Pick a side, man." You can't be an Indian AND a white man. I am Dene. I will prove it: no one needs to know that I am half-white. It's embarrassing. It's *so* not Indian to be half-white. I denounce my father, the white man, the colonizer, the victimizer. I am Dene. Down with the white man.

I look in the mirror and I see my father's eyes. Shit. I don't want that, I am Dene, goddamnit. Why can't I have thick, black hair like my brother? Why do I have to have my dad's hair? "Ohmigod, does she ever look like her dad," mom's boarding school friend giggles during a visit to the rez. I take it as an insult. Shit, I look like a goddamn moh-la. I look in the mirror and I see the colonizer's eyes.

What do you mean he's dead? No. No. No. Please don't go, not yet. It was only a phase! I didn't really mean it. Please come back – it was only a phase. False empowerment vanishes as its foundation of racism and anger crumbles under the weight of sorrow and a lifetime of love. All I'm left with is guilt, shame and regret. "Sorry to hear about your dad. How's school – what is it you're taking again? Your dad told me it has something to do with politics – he was *so* proud of you." Oh Dad.

"Pick a side, man." No! Fuck that. I refuse to pick a side. I am what I am. I am Dene; I am British – the colonized and the colonizer, the victim and the victimizer, the oppressed and the oppressor. I am what I am. No one has the right to define me, to tell me what I am and what I am not. It's not up to the government, and it's certainly not up to those who choose to engage in Us-vs.-Them politics. Isn't that the essence of self-determination, of decolonization?

How can I fight colonization without fighting the colonizers? If colonization is a system founded on a belief in European superiority, then I will contest this belief. I will advocate a course of action that is based on a belief in a fundamental equality stemming from our humanity, not one that is based on the colonial fallacy that one is good and the other is bad and there is no in-between.

I will stand up and fight the injustices of colonization but I refuse to rip myself down the middle and walk through this life a broken human being just to satisfy those who can't step outside the colonial mindset and its Us-vs.-Them mentality. I choose to stand up to injustice and resist colonization, in all of it's insidious forms, not because I am trying to be a Real Indian, but because I am trying to be a real human being.

In memory of Ted Lowe, February 19, 1941, - December 5, 2001.

Indigenous Rhythms

by Wil George

First a breath, then exhale and in between is where we live. Breathing. Walking down by the Inner Harbour one day, I met Raven. He rested his wings against the ground and looked out to the ocean.

"What do you know about referenda?" I asked Raven.

"I told the people that when the visitors washed up on the shores of this continent that they should have had a referendum on whether the visitors could stay. I was told that referenda weren't a part of their teachings and letting people starve wasn't part of their teachings. When it comes to referenda today, I'm not going to tell you what I think. I'll just remind you to breathe."

Rain. Rain has its own rhythm. As I sat and spoke with trickster, it rained. I can't remember how the conversation turned to referenda. I went to invite Raven to sing some songs at Indigenous Rhythms: Evening of Song, Dance, Storytelling, and Poetry on March 1 in the smaller part of the Michèle Pujol Room in the Student Union Building.

"Rain seeps into the bones' flesh. I remember how rain deluges pass through communities. through the rain, the community feasted. Through the rain, the community starved. Through it all was song rhythm," Raven said.

As I continued to tell him about our event on March 1, Raven cawed when I told him that the evening begins with the Bannock Bake-off and the crowning of the new Bannock Princess at 5 p.m. Then there is an Aboriginal Art Auction from 6 to 7 p.m. Indigenous Rhythms, beginning at 7 p.m., closes the NSU Aboriginal Awareness Week. Although Raven was spontaneously performing for me down by the Inner Harbour, he didn't commit to singing for us at Indigenous Rhythms.

"Remember to breathe," said Raven.

LETTERS

"Sam and Fuzzy" ousted by GM

I am one of those people who places themselves on the politically concerned spectrum somewhere between shopping at the Gap and not buying tuna unless it has a "No Dolphins Allowed" logo on the label. For this reason, I have been pleased to find the comics published on the last page of *the Martlet*: with this set-up, I get my chuckle without worrying that my conscience may be challenged. So imagine my disappointment when I picked up the Jan. 31 and Feb. 7 issues and found the last page dominated by GM ads.

Some people may question what the GM ads are doing anywhere near *the Martlet,* but not me. I understand that the cover price ain't exactly paying the paper's bills. I also understand that, despite the fact that GM is a decidedly unfriendly corporation, they're as green as the next person's. Instead of big questions, I offer a small solution: keep the GM ads but print them on the second page where they will receive maximum exposure. This will free up the last page for "Sam and Fuzzy," where they belong. Thank you.

Cliff Hatcher

The REAL Web voting story

The letter entitled "UVSS Web voting" from the February 14 edition is full of so much misinformation and fantasy that I feel I must set the record straight on Web voting. The arguments put forward as to why we have no Web voting have no basis in truth, and I know this because I was the one who recommended to the Board of Directors that we not proceed with Web voting this year.

The truth is really quite simple: the Board had been in discussions with the university on the possibility of having Web voting this year, but when I asked them in mid-January if their Web voting system was fixed (after last year's experience of the system going down often and for long periods of time) they said "no."

Now, I know what many of you are thinking: "Can't any competent computer science student make a stable Web voting system in no time?" The answer is, of course, yes. However, the only way to verify the identity of a student voter is with his/her PIN, which is also used for course registration. For security reasons the university will not give the UVSS, or anybody else, access to those PINs, so our hands are, unfortunately, tied.

If the university fixes their Web voting by March 6-8 (don't forget to vote) the Board of Directors will probably revisit the idea. If you are interested in Web voting (either for or against it), I suggest you contact the Board of Directors after the election and get involved in the debate. After all, open debate, not Web voting, is what really makes a democracy.

Adam Peters, UVSS director at large

More heat on UVSS

By now most know about the misappropriated $311 000. The criminal investigation is on-going to determine who and how these funds were lost.

But we are ignoring the core issue. UVSS operations are not the only ones to blame. The true culprit is the system, flawed as it might be, that permitted such an act to occur.

We should be holding the entire UVSS Finance Committee accountable. Those individuals who we elected to govern our society's finances but who were severely negligent in their duties. Perhaps they were being fed the wrong information, but it is their duty to find out the true numbers and properly manage our finances.

I am not merely talking about this year's finance committee but also the previous one. Grew Awai, Summer McFayden, Andrew McVie and Jonas Gifford (to name only a few) all share at least some responsibility.

If this was the House of Commons, they wouldn't get away with it. Is a student society different? Just because they are no longer in office does not mean they can escape blame. A bipartisan investigation must be conducted to review all the actions of our previous financial managers and the system that permitted this violation to occur.

Chuck Wootten

Dialogue reinforces limiting labels

I respect Rita Kozma and Kyla Sorenson's request that I not cast their voices in "a frozen moment of time" ["A conversation on race and sexuality," Feb. 14, 2002]. They explicitly maintain their right to change their minds if they feel like it. I write this in the hope that it will convince them to do so.

Kyla asks if her white skin rules out her Métis heritage or erases her family. I am white with Western-European ancestry. Does my white skin and European heritage erase my heritage, or limit my ability to form a particular identity for myself? Presumably, as a common white-Euro I don't even have anything to erase. While those of minority skin colour and background are always being asked to explain how they see themselves, white-Euros are not even considered to have any identities worth explaining. They are simply summed up by their whiteness: malignant, homogenous and homogenizing.

I suppose I could call myself white-Euro but I don't. I don't believe that my (or anybody's) identity can be captured by just two variables. I ask that, in the future, the authors resist the temptation to unjustly label any person, whether from a minority or majority, whether visibly distinctive or not.

Jonathan Ross

P.S. I would welcome a reply from the authors if they have the time and the inclination.

For even more op/ed, turn to page 18

diet supplements... energy boost or h

by Crystal Pinarello

Twenty-year-old Kelley Olinger stands 5'2" and can't weigh more than 115 lbs. Yet, she is so concerned about her appearance that she was taking a diet supplement last year to lose body fat and increase endurance.

"For me it was all about finding something that would give me an energy boost at the gym," said Olinger." I went to a nutritional centre and talked to someone about endurance for cardio. They showed me a whole wall of current products and I was shocked to find out how many people were using them."

Olinger is one of many young people jumping on the bandwagon of a new wave of diet supplements; the most popular of its kind is called Hydroxycut.

The supplement's popularity has risen over the last two years because of its effectiveness in cutting down body fat, but the negative effects it might have on the body are still a hotly debated topic.

Made by Muscle-Tech, the product claims to increase energy and allow people to shed 10 to 30 lbs in less than eight weeks.

Xenadrine, Diet Fuel, Therma Lean, Xtra Lean and KIX are just a few of the wide variety of products that contain similar ingredients and make similar claims. Some of them even promise to help lose as much as 40 lbs in less than six weeks.

Kimberly Duly, a sales representative at GNC, one of many supplement stores that carry Hydroxycut in the Victoria area, agrees that the product's popularity has increased steadily since it first appeared on the shelves. The main market for this product is people under 30.

Nabil Nadji, a 21-year-old student who participated in the Canada Games this summer in beach volleyball, is one of those young people who recently started taking Hydroxycut.

"I was hoping that I could get into 'Mexico-beach-shape' really quickly. I dropped in body fat but I was also exercising twice a day and eating right," said Nadji. "It also made me feel very weird for the six weeks that I was taking it."

Like Nadji, most people taking this supplement report feeling jittery and nauseous, thirsty, sweaty and hyperactive. Once off the drug, many complain of irritation and lack of energy.

"I was grumpy for two weeks after I quit taking it," said Nadji. "I even thought about going back on it, just so that I could feel awake again."

But there is no denying the effectiveness of the product.

Most of those who use it report that fat drops quickly and they feel that endurance and cardiovascular strength has been heightened.

Dr. Anton Voorhoeve of the Gordon Head Treatment Centre disagrees about the product's effectiveness. He sees products like Hydroxycut as a waste of time.

"The drug isn't burning fat," he says. "You will burn fat through being active. All the drug does is make you more active."

This increased energy is a result of the potency of stimulants that are the main ingredient in Hydroxycut and similar products.

"Every one of these natural weight-loss products contain a potent combination of herbal ingredients which supply natural forms of three active components: ephedrine, caffeine and aspirin," said a representative from West Pharm, makers of Xtra Lean.

When taken together, the three components form what has come to be known as an ECA stack.

Ephedrine and caffeine are both stimulants that motivate the release of adrenaline and raise the body temperature by two degrees Fahrenheit. This rise in body temperature is part of a process called thermogenesis, which, according to the advertising pamphlet for Hydro Lean not only stimulates activity but also causes an increase in metabolic rate that motivates the body to burn fat even when not exercising.

This is an attractive claim for anyone who is looking to trim down and shape up, and that's why Hydroxycut targets not only athletes but anyone concerned with their body image.

In addition to muscle and fitness magazines, the product is also advertised in fashion and beauty magazines like *Cosmopolitan*.

Duly says that GNC's biggest concern with the product is what she calls "sneaky advertising."

"Hydroxycut's ads are formatted to look like articles," she said. The six-page colour spreads contain fitness and nutritional tips, while discretely plugging the product as an effective fitness enhancer.

"A lot of customers don't even realize it is advertising," Duly said. Nadji was one of the many who read about the product in "Muscle and Fitness" magazine thinking that he was reading an article.

"The popularity of the product over the last little while has a lot to do with their advertising," said Duly. "[The makers of Hydroxycut] have the largest advertising budget of any sports supplement company in North America."

The other "sneaky" tactic employed by the makers of these products is that most bottles disguise the stimulants by listing their herbal sources, said Duly. Instead of blatantly listing ephedrine, caffeine and aspirin as the main ingredients, the label on the Hydroxycut bottle lists its main ingredients as green tea, sida cordifolia and white willow bark, which are sources of the ECA combination.

Most people see these natural elements and assume that because they are herbal ingredients, they can't be harmful.

"Most herbs are pretty safe if used as directed," said Keith Loreth, owner of Vitalife Nutritional Supplements, one of the many supplement stores carrying the products in Victoria.

"Hydroxycut and similar products – anything that has high doses of ephedrine and caffeine – are a completely different story."

He compared the purification and concentration of the stimulants to the process of purifying poppies into opium.

"Ephedrine is a base in making methamphetamine, better known as Speed. Just because it is natural, doesn't mean it is good for your body. They are effective products," said Loreth about all supplements containing an ECA stack, "but any stimulant is going to tax the body. I always tell customers to use it with caution." He recommends that customers use the supplement in conjunction with a vitamin pack.

"Because [the ECA stack] will act like a diuretic, lots of vitamins and minerals are lost," he said.

Diuretics rid the body of excess fluids. They do this by forcing the kidneys to excrete urine more frequently and in greater amounts, but by doing so, vitamins and minerals that are vital to body maintenance tend to be flushed out of the system before they have a chance to be absorbed.

ealth hazard?

Doctors like Voorhoeve warn against the use of any sort of supplement for weight loss.

"These products only work temporarily and have adverse side effects like intense hyperactivity and sleeplessness," said Voorhoeve. "Too much caffeine is never good for you."

According to Duly at GNC, Hydroxycut has the weakest caffeine content of all the drugs and contains as much caffeine in its recommended daily dosage as four cups of coffee.

"When you go off the supplement, you will feel the effects of caffeine withdrawal, which take up to two weeks to dissipate," said Voorhoeve.

Brad Clark, a 22-year-old student, just accepted the side effects as part of the process of getting in shape.

"I knew what to expect," said Clark. "I did my research and if you know anything, you will realize the possible side effects."

He only took the pill for a few weeks but said that it worked wonders – he dropped fat quickly and as an extra-added bonus was able to wake up more easily for his summer job that started at 4:30 a.m.

One company in the US reported that some customers call them "happy pills" because of the effect that they have on mood and energy levels.

Loreth, who firmly believes in herbal supplements for good health shakes his head at this comment.

"That is another problem with this drug – a lot of people will take it just to get high, and then it becomes a drug and no longer a supplement."

And the truth of the matter is when the government started putting drug identification numbers (DINs) on herbal supplements in order to identify certain supplements as actual drugs, ECA-stacked products were among the first to be identified in the class of drugs.

Voorhoeve and Loreth agree that there are much better ways to lose weight, especially for young people who are still able to be active and need good nutrition to maintain vitality.

Loreth recommends high amounts of fibre and protein, low carbohydrates and lots of fruits and vegetables.

"And of course exercise. Just plain old exercise – nothing is going to be more effective than that."

photo by Graham Winterbottom

Hydroxycut was pulled from the shelves last week, but there are plenty of other similar products still on the market.

CFUV holds annual Fundrive

by Elianna Lev

> CFUV is a creative way to have an alternative voice on the air waves.
>
> *Sharmeen Khan*

UVic's very own campus radio station, CFUV, is hosting a week of fun and frolic between March 1 and 8. The main purpose of the 18th annual Fundrive is to raise funds to cover 15 per cent of the operating budget to buy equipment for replacement or repairs, said Sharmeen Khan, CFUV's station manager.

Khan also stresses that it's not only about raising money but increasing awareness of what the station has to offer.

"We want presence on campus," said Khan. "We want people to know that not only do we play music and raise issues but we're a great way to gain experience. We really want to be out there more."

Events will take place on campus and around town at venues such as Felicitas, Lucky Bar and Hugo's. On Friday March 8, International Women's Day, CFUV will host a women's radio-a-thon with an open mic between 9 p.m. and midnight.

Last year's Fundrive raised $1700, which went towards a new board for the production room, sound recording and a digital logger, which records all that goes on air for CRTC purposes.

"Since we're running 24 hours a day, equipment is always breaking down," said Khan. This year they are aiming for $2100, "for the 21st century."

CFUV has been running 24 hours a day on the FM dial since 1984. It is a volunteer organization which provides a platform for the community to have alternative radio programming. Try and name another radio station in Victoria that has six hip hop shows and spoken word programming. Token Zone deals with racism and gender issues, and Whose Streets, Our Streets focuses on radical politics.

"In this day and age, with the problems of media monopoly, CFUV is a creative way to have an alternative voice on the air waves," said Khan. "Since we're volunteer-run and non-profit, Fundrive is really important."

CFUV Special events: Fri., March 1: all day spinning at Felicitas. 7 p.m., 529 Pandora, Women's Music. Tues., March 5: Dope-a-Licious Broken Beats, Lucky Bar, 517 Yates. Wed., March 6: Soulful Hip Hop R&B, Hugo's, 625 Courtney. Fri., March 8: Women's Radio-o-thon 6 a.m.-midnight on air.

photo by Anne Larrass

CFUV dj Alex Solunac hard at work wooing the listening audience with hits from his radio show Loud, Fast and Outta Control.

Thinking outside of Ring Road with SATCo

Käthe Lemon

> Theatre is more dangerous [than film]. There's no way around that. The audience has to invest so much more.
>
> *Ben Lawrence*

The Student Alternative Theatre Company (SATCo) offers a doubled exposure to new theatre. While the student actors and directors get a chance to produce new and varied works, audiences can see experimental theatre that is not often available elsewhere in the city.

"We have a very old population [in Victoria], that's reflected in the audience and the shows marketed to them," said Laura South, a member of the SATCo Board of Directors. "What we think is very tame may be very challenging [for an older audience]."

With that in mind SATCo is lenient, allowing students to produce works outside of the constraints of a regular theatre budget.

"Theatre is forced to play to an audience, to [pander] to an audience to make itself commercially viable," said Ben Lawrence, also a member of the board. "Here we don't have to rely on that funding. We can challenge the ideas that are out there."

In September hopeful directors submitted show proposals to the SATCo board for review. Usually there are about 15 applications, of which SATCo can produce 10 shows during the year. The Board selects shows based on the feasibility of the show rather than the content. The only input the faculty has is to guarantee the production is safe for the actors. This ensures that almost any topic or form of theatre can find its place in the SATCo season.

The Phoenix facilities and equipment, which are some of the best in the country, are available to SATCo, but with money raised by ticket sales, the theatre company is starting to buy some equipment of its own.

SATCo shows run for one week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 4:30 p.m. at the Phoenix Theatre.

Freed from the constraints of money, the SATCo members wish for a more adventurous audience.

"Theatre is more dangerous [than film]," said Lawrence. "There's no way around that. The audience has to invest so much more." However, all of the SATCo members hope that the UVic community will prove to be an adventurous audience.

"There is a market for it," says South. "People are starting to come out."

"It's on edge," Lawrence continued. "[We're] taking risks, just not financial risks. Theatre is an open dialogue. It has a magical element, a human element. That transformation is not necessarily there in film and technical mediums."

SATCo Shows

Lear's Daughters, directed by Clarid Charland and Karling Rudling, March 4 - 8

Dream, directed by Alexander Ferguson and Cam Culham, March 11 - 15

Bravo, directed by Adele Sacks, March 18 - 22

All shows are presented on the Barbara McIntyre stage at the Phoenix starting at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Subfood a gamut of goodness

by Kristin McIntosh

I'm not sure if word is out that food places on campus are being reviewed, or whether the service at these places is always this good. Either way, if the staff is friendlier and the place seems a wee bit cleaner, who can complain? On the other hand, none of it matters if the food is lacking. So here's my opinion on a few other places in the SUB.

The Health Food Bar

This is by far one of my favourite places on campus to eat. They have a great selection when it comes to wraps, sandwiches and salads, plus the food is delicious! Unlike some places that only have one good thing on the menu, this place has many, so experiment away. My favs? Definitely the Chicken Caesar Wrap and the Taco Salad. On top of that, the staff is pretty much always nice and helpful (I'm guessing opening late and closing early is a benefit for that one) and the service is fairly fast. My only gripe? The prices, six bucks for a fast-food salad seems a little ridiculous. That's about how much you would pay at a place where you can actually sit at a clean table and get served.

photo by Matt

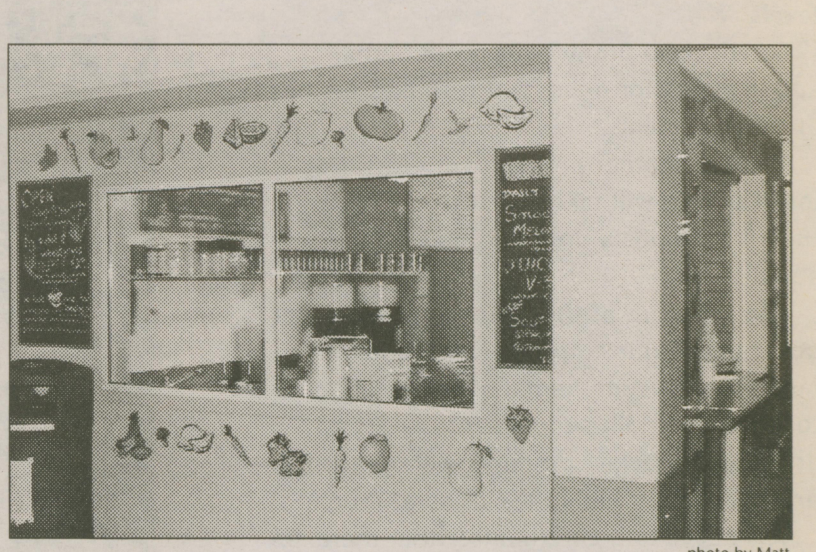

photo by Matt

InnerAction

All right, I admit it, I'm a bit of a smoothie freak. Berries take up most of the room in my freezer and my roommates are at risk of a strawberry avalanche every time they open the door. And, while I hopped off the bandwagon for a bit (the winter months just don't seem to scream smoothie), before December I was averaging at least one a day. So when the juice bar opened near Cinecenta, I was pretty excited. The prices seemed a little expensive at nearly four dollars a drink, but I rationalized that this was a healthy snack and, like we've already discussed, I have a bit of an addiction. When I arrived, the booth was flawless, the counters spotless and the man that helped me had just the right amount of enthusiasm and carelessness. I ordered my drink and watched in anticipation. Then BAM . . . my bubble burst. The man made my drink with what looked like just a tiny bit of juice and a whole lotta ice. I was shocked, that's not how you make a smoothie. Where are the frozen berries? Where's the fresh fruit? More importantly, where are my four bucks?

Munchie Bar

While this isn't the prime place to stop for lunch or dinner, if you feel like a quick snack, it's great. Think Finnerty's minus the line-up, and fewer choices, BUT on the plus side, it's often open late. Rather than convenience store necessities, the Munchie Bar has got all your basic movie supplies (licorice, chocolate bars, candy), great hot drinks, ice cream and the oh-so-famous Slush Puppies (with various syrup flavors). The staff is fairly friendly and, here's the big bonus, there's extra seating off to the side. While it's not the most comfy seating, it is quiet and there never seems to be a huge demand for you to get up. While I'm not a big coffee fan, rumour has it that they serve some of the best . . . Torrefazione (remember I don't drink it, so I'm not sure how to spell it).

Complex outfits local hipsters

by Anne Larrass

The skate scene is no longer exclusive. It's street. It's urban. You can't tell the difference between a skater, snowboarder or homeboy/girl.

For the longest time Victoria offered nothing for the scene in terms of fashion and hip hop culture, that is until Miles Wishlow and Jason Tuttle opened Complex on Johnson St. four years ago.

Wishlow's aspiration to open up his own shop began in high school, where he sold skateboard comics and products out of his locker at a "slightly inflated price." He later met Tuttle, who at that time was managing a board store called Coastline. Their shared interest in the hip hop scene and Tuttle's "very good business mind" inevitably led to more concrete ideas and finally to Victoria's only shop that enables "Victoria and Victoria youth to actually pursue hip hop culture and fashion," said Wishlow.

The move to create a centre for the hip hop scene proved to be somewhat of a challenge. As most suppliers are American, it was often difficult to sell good clothing at an accessible cost.

"At first it was a very small core group that . . . supported us," said Wishlow. But now the "one hundred per cent hip hop-driven store" attracts a regular crowd, tourists and "destination shoppers" to the scene. Aside from selling funky hip hop fashion, Complex prides itself on sponsoring the local hip hop culture, creating a mutual support group.

"Through sponsorship, they give us exposure," said Wishlow.

For the first eight months after the grand opening, Wishlow and Tuttle worked seven days a week, researching new clothes lines, attending trade shows, meeting clothing designers and figuring out the finances.

"We specialize in bringing in lines that are hard to find," said Wishlow.

Originally more geared towards men's clothing, Complex is now committed to expand into the women's market. This requires adamant research as it is more difficult to find women's hip hop clothing. With our exchange rate in a fairly pitiful state, a low budget won't do it if you want to shop at Complex. Prices range from $4 for wide neon shoe laces, to $1000 for leather jackets.

Aside from reaping in good cash for US brands, such as Akademik, Lifted Research Group and Avirex, Wishlow and Tuttle have had a great amount of success with their own line, Complex. This type of urban clothing used to be exclusive to Complex, but now you can find similar styles in regular shops in the mall. Because competition is rising, Wishlow and Tuttle are in constant search of new lines and fashions.

"It keeps us on our toes to bring new things to the market," said Wishlow, adding that they try to remain unique.

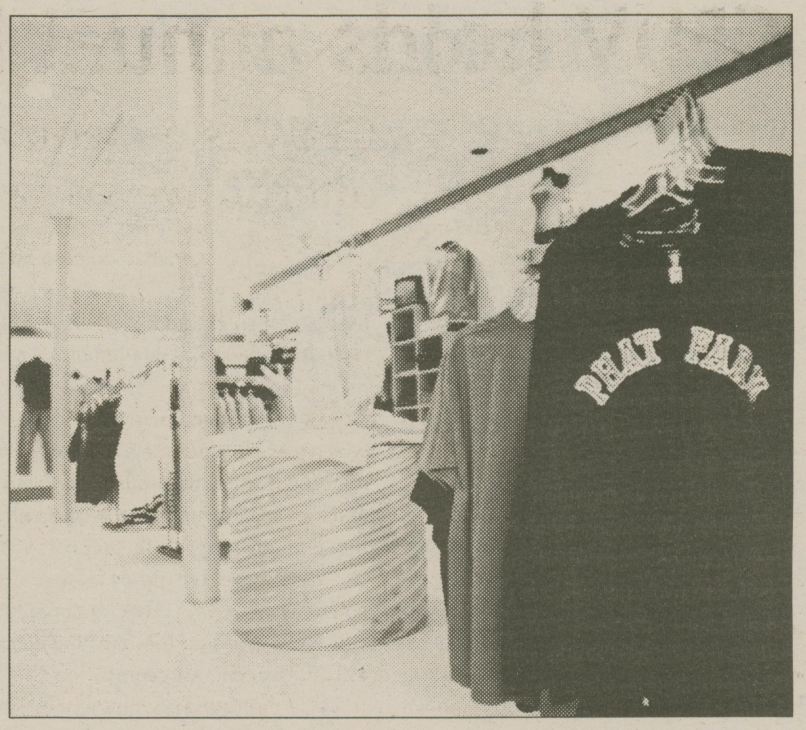

photo by Graham Winterbottom

"We respect other individual retailers in maintaining their individual identity. With the market as it is, it's easy to become homogeneous," explained Wishlow.

Complex sporadically hosts local djs, including dj Verse and Dr. Watson to play jazz, hip hop and rap in store. They also sponsored the break dancing competition at Sugar last month.

More than just merchandise at WCWC's rainforest store

by John Trenholme

At a glance the Western Canada Wilderness Committee's Rainforest Store, tucked inconspicuously on the shady side of Johnson Street just west of Douglas, looks like a little more than eco-friendly retail – a ubiquitous presence in downtown Victoria.

The truth is much more endearing.

"We are an educational organization that only works through legal means," said Heidi Sherwood, office manager of the Victoria branch of WCWC. "I should stress that we are not a lobbyist group. The store is essentially a buffer, or introduction, for anyone who wants to become environmentally active."

The store sells eco-friendly products exclusively. Vegan cookbooks, wilderness cards and posters, and hiking and guide books, all printed on recycled paper products. Other WCWC products include fair-trade coffees, locally-made chocolates, seeds, hemp t-shirts, and coffee filters. Profits from sales are directed towards education, research and campaigns for environmental preservation around the world.

photo by Anne Larrass

Locally, the WCWC has enjoyed substantial success. Logging threatened the region near Carmanah Pacific Provincial Park in Port Renfrew, and the construction of a nature trail through the area quelled encroaching developers. Small victories of this sort run long on WCWC's list of accomplishments.

The WCWC enjoys federal charitable status as the largest citizen-based wilderness and wildlife preservation organization in the country, numbering 25,000 members since its inception in 1980. The WCWC includes branches in White Rock, Edmonton and Winnipeg. The head office is located in Vancouver.

Nationally, the WCWC has its sights set on legislation to protect endangered species, a topic that in years past has received little attention in the House of Commons. A Species at Risk Act (SARA) was recently introduced in the House of Commons and thousands of signed cards gathered by WCWC efforts ensure that SARA will garner more attention in the future.

Also on the list of WCWC priorities is maintaining the moratorium on the drilling of oil and gas, an overture that has gained momentum from a reluctance to continue trade relationships with oil-rich yet volatile countries in the Middle East.

The retail branch of the store provides the funds for allocation to these campaigns.

"We also arrange hiking trips, rallies, slide shows and film festivals," said Sherwood, noting the many forms of grassroots public education that WCWC employs to spread their mantra.

"There are lots of different ways for people to be active and involved and contributing."

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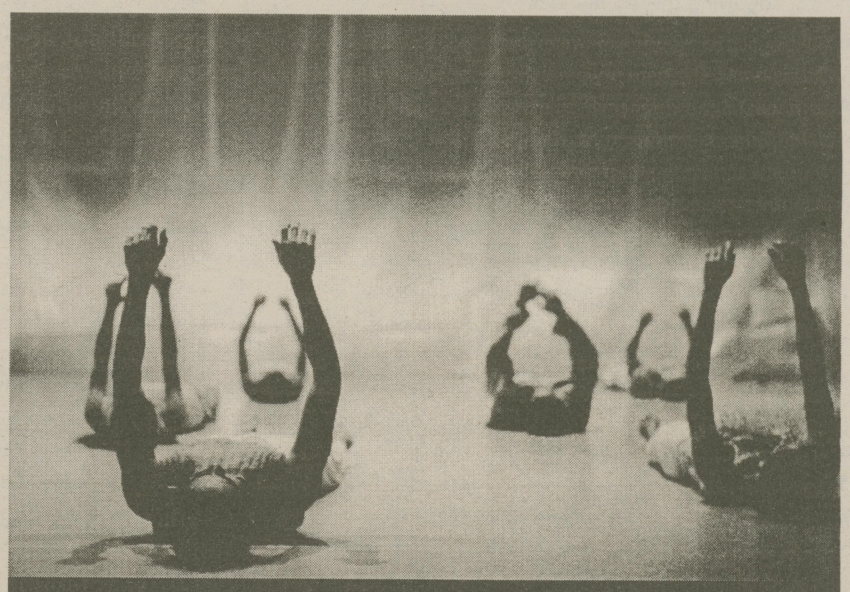

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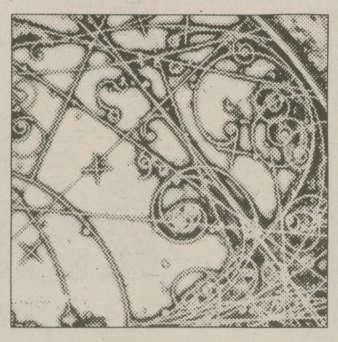
The Strokes' *Is This It* – good tunes to get action to

The Strokes
Is This It
RCA Records

by mark samcoe



A stroke of luck? A stroke of genius? The Strokes' *Is This It* answers with another question. How do you write a review that doesn't regurgitate the year-end best-of lists, class and city upbringings, fashion savoir-faire, and sounds like . . . comparisons that have comprised every article since the record's release five months ago?

Because a review is supposed to either recommend or pan a record. I thought about advising who might like it, when and where it should be played. But I didn't want to be exclusive. Some people are die-hard autonomists, always going with their gut: Potluck Party Mixes or Digital Underground sex rhymes.

I debated riffing on their name: brain attacks, what the coxswain yells, masturbation and handjobs; but I was being gratuitous. I wanted to include the phrase "Diff'rent Strokes for Diff'rent Folks," but I didn't watch television in the 80s and I didn't want to come off as a poser.

Kids dig personal anecdotes. They love relating to things because if the Fresh Prince taught me anything, it's that parents just don't understand. However, my only story is of screaming the chorus of "Take It or Leave It" (song 10) while ripping up the Trans-Canada on the way to a job interview. It seemed too pathetic and self-mutilating. Plus it's not as delicious as, say, getting action with the Strokes on in the background, or actually seeing them live.

I decided to create some real melodrama to prove that I'm interesting. I wanted to get drunk while listening to the record. Throughout, I would describe the scene: the characters present, the alcohol type and quantity, the emotions experienced, the misinterpreted lyrics, the debauchery, the hangover. But I couldn't find anyone who wanted to sit around the stereo all night and get right fucked off Boone's Sparkling Wine. Not even my friend, Nick.

Once I walked in on him, supposedly writing a paper on my roommate's computer, listening to the album, and busting a move he calls "The Honest Man" (head tilted to the heavens, hands fisted, forearms crossed in front of head, palpitating slightly). A friend of his once partied with the Strokes' guitarist when he was 15. Does that work? Is it too anticlimactic? Should I have let Nick write the review?

To salvage my pride, I thought about what someone with no prior knowledge of the Strokes would think if they picked up this cd. The cover art, collisions in a particle chamber, says nothing but pretentious. The original artwork, a black and white side shot of a bare ass, gloved hand resting on the curve, screams sweet ass! Unfortunately, the Fresh Prince also taught me never to judge a cd by its cover (note, Homebase).

Then I flipped the case and read the track listing. Someone, disillusioned by life, might see the first song ("Is This It") and think the Strokes spoke their language, grammatically incorrect English (is it missing a question mark?). Maybe the third song, "Soma," would appeal to the *Brave New World* fan. Maybe the porn connoisseur might identify with song four, "Barely Legal."

But at the end of my word limit, I give up. I guess all I can do is take comfort in my favourite song, number eight, "Hard to Explain."

Tibet and the CIA

by Jeff Andrew

Tibetans with guns. A 20-year-long CIA-funded resistance against the Chinese. Top-secret guerrilla warfare atop the Himalayas.

As strange as it sounds, these were the images and stories on display last Sunday night at the David Lam Auditorium, where students and Victoria residents were given a rare chance to hear a forgotten chapter of Tibetan and American history.

World-renowned speaker, award-winning author and radical Tibetan activist Jamyang Norbu was on hand to give a lecture on Tibetan Independence and Chinese oppression, and to present a new documentary examining the secret role the Americans played in this struggle.

According to the film *The Shadow Circus*, an armed resistance against the invading Chinese took place in various parts of Tibet from 1954 until the early 1970s. In the spirit of the Cold War, the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) funded the revolt against the Communist Chinese, supplying the Tibetans with weapons, ammunition and training. A special camp was even set up in Colorado, where Tibetan soldiers were trained in guerrilla tactics.

Back in their native country, they gathered intelligence for the CIA and conducted covert assaults on Chinese bases and supply lines. These activities continued until the early 1970s, when US President Richard Nixon pulled the plug on the operation, leaving the Tibetans stranded and forced to surrender.

The documentary focuses on the CIA's role in funding the resistance. The filmmakers, amazingly enough, managed to get former CIA agents who were involved to speak on camera about the operation. As the story unfolds, it becomes clear that the Americans never intended to help free Tibet. Instead, they duped the Tibetans into helping them gather information on the Chinese and distract their Cold War enemy's attention from South-East Asia.

"Nobody wanted to go to war for Tibet," says one of the agents. "Our goal was to annoy China, to occupy their time."

The film is full of shocking images and astonishing revelations. It was strange to see the once-peaceful Tibetans carrying rifles and attacking trucks, and even stranger to learn that the Americans were involved in, or at least knew about, every key event that took place in the early years of the Chinese takeover. Pictures of desperate people fighting for their survival in the mountains are contrasted with shots of the former CIA agents, all old white men, sitting comfortably in their suburban houses discussing covert operations, mission objectives and casualty numbers.

After the film, Jamyang Norbu took the microphone to elaborate on the Tibetan side of the story. Norbu is a fascinating figure: born in exile and educated in India, he has played many different roles in the struggle to free Tibet. He's worked with the Tibetan Government In Exile since the late 1960s, served as a teacher and later director of the Tibetan Institute For The Performing Arts, worked for years as a journalist in India, and is now an internationally acclaimed author and playwright. His novel *The Mandala Of Sherlock Holmes* won the Crossword Book Award (India's highest award for a work of fiction) in 2000 and he is currently part of a group called the Rangzen Alliance that is trying to organize a world-wide boycott of products made in China.

Norbu is also an accomplished lecturer and outspoken political activist, whose views on what should be done in Tibet often clash with the Dalai Lama's more moderate position. Norbu wants to see nothing less than total independence for Tibet, and if necessary he favours armed revolution to achieve that goal.

It's a topic Norbu knows well. As an idealistic young man, he spent some time fighting with his countrymen in the Himalayas, after, as he puts it, "reading too much Hemingway." His role in the struggle was limited, as he quickly learned that he wasn't cut out for fighting. He did, however, learn the difference between the broken, humble Tibetans living in exile and the proud, fierce ones still struggling to hold on to their country. The lesson stuck with him and his life since has been devoted to bringing about a return to those proud days of independence.

photo by Jeff Andrew

Jamyang Norbu

In his lecture, both sombre and hilarious, he talked about life in modern Tibet and why he believes revolution is still possible. He says massive corruption in the Chinese government, an unstable infrastructure and a populace fed up with low wages and poor working conditions have left China on the verge of collapse. He pointed to the recent waves of public executions, religious persecution of Buddhists, Christians and groups like the Falun Gong, and the government's draconian response to public protests as examples of a leadership that is struggling desperately to hold on to power. "These are not the signs of a mature, stable government," he said.

His point seemed to be that China is like a tinderbox right now, just waiting for the right spark to set it aflame. Once that happens, he believes the goal of independence for Tibet could be achieved. He even suggested, jokingly, that people travel to Tibet now as a kind of "Orwellian Tourism" to see one of the world's last truly tyrannical dictatorships before it collapses.

For these reasons and others, Norbu maintains hope that by spreading his message to the world through art and politics, the dreams of those brave Tibetans he fought with in the mountains might one day be realized. He pushes the Rangzen Alliance's boycott as the kind of sustainable campaign that, with the help of students, labour unions and community groups, could foster the grassroots support needed to free Tibet and China from the grip of the Communist Party. In many ways, he said, it has already begun.

"People are whispering in the dark. We will see our freedom once again."

Campus culture calendar

VISUAL ARTS

The Painted Landscape
The Maltwood Art Museum & Gallery presents an exhibit of landscape paintings by five Canadian artists. Feb. 20 - March 21 @ Mc Pherson Library Gallery.

Salon Show & Silent Auction
Participate in a 50'50 Grad Fundraising event with original art, poetry and short story readings, live music and dance. Thursday, Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m. @UVic Visual Arts Bldg.

WRITING

Faculty Reading
Department of Writing presents second annual Faculty Reading. Friday, March 1, 7 p.m. @ the Norway House, 1118 Hillside. Admission: $4; $3 for students.

MUSIC

Fridaymusic
School of Music students in a programme for various instruments. Friday, March 1, 12:30 p.m. @ Phillip T. Young Recital Hall. Admission by donation.

BandFest 2002
Approximately 3500 young musicians will participate in this annual festival. Wednesday, March 6, until Friday, March 8, 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. @ University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. Free admission.

Sonic Lab
School of Music presents UVic Brass Ensemble, conducted by Louis Ranger, and music by Henry Cowell and Anton Webern, conducted by Christopher Butterfield. Friday, March 1, 8 p.m. @ Phillip T. Young Recital Hall. Admission by donation.

PERFORMING ARTS

Festival of Independent and New Drama (FIND)
Budding playwrights, directors and actors! Interested in writing a script and actually staging your play next year? Find out more about the guidelines and details on Monday, March 4, 1 p.m. in the Phoenix Theatre. For more info, contact Marnie Crowe at 721-7992

submit your event info to martletart@yahoo.ca.

THE STROKES

We have five copies of The Strokes cd *Is This It* and five Strokes posters to give away...
be one of the first ten people to come down to *the Martlet* office (no, we won't tell you where it is – you'll have to figure it out yourself) and you'll have your choice of whatever's left.

The Strokes

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Hayden dates Madonna, falls off dog

by Craig Battle

I was 15 the first time I saw Hayden. He played at Java and made jokes about airplane bathrooms and shit falling from the sky, back when bathroom jokes were cool. It was my first concert.

Hayden had a cold but he didn't show it. As snow fell outside he set up alone on a small stage and played over an hour of songs from *Everything I Long For*, an album he had recorded largely in his parents' house. He hung around afterwards to sign records and coffee menus.

It was the finest night of my young life. Since then I've seen him twice. Hayden has now embarked on another national tour to promote his latest album *Skyscraper National Park*, which will bring him to Victoria on March 1 for a show at the Alix Goolden Performance Hall.

Recently, I talked with Hayden about his life, his strange affiliation with Universal Records and the rumours surrounding him and Madonna. It wasn't pretty. Here are some annotated snippets of the conversation:

H: Hey Craig.

C: Hey Hayden. How are you doing?

H: Good. How are you?

C: Oh, I'm not bad.

See, right from the start we were like old friends. We were all caught up. Hayden and I are like that.

C: Right on. So where are you now?

H: Toronto.

C: What are you up to these days?

H: Right now I'm leafing through a book called *The Fireside Book of Favourite American Songs*.

C: Right on. Are you getting some cover material, or what?

H: (laughs) No, it's just a neat book. There are some funny songs in here. Like "Wearin, of the Green" and "Believe Me If All Those Endearing Young Charms." I don't know, they're all kind of like "Buckeye Jim." They're weird.

I think we need to pause here and point out the fact that I made Hayden laugh. We can move on.

C: You were just here in the fall, right? Why so soon back to Victoria?

H: Well, I just did a quick tour the month before my record came out. No one knew any of the new songs. I just had a lot of fun and the idea came up to actually try to get away with doing theatre shows.

C: Right on. Before the last show you hadn't played Victoria for about three years. What were you doing during the time off, aside from recording the new album?

H: (laughs, again). I don't know, um, living.

C: Just living?

H: Yeah, just living.

C: Right on. Like, what would that entail?

H: Its not that interesting. Bought a house. Made a studio in the house. Played music a lot with different people. Didn't really record much of it. Slowly wrote songs. Went to some movies. Had dinner at my parents' house a few times.

C: Right on.

H: Yeah, you know.

Then Hayden and I argued semantics about the difference between album art and cover art, in which each of us thought the other had no idea what was up, and then I asked him about the status of his record deal. It's been a mystery to me for years.

C: The liner notes in my copy of the new album, I bought it at the Lucky show, make no reference to Universal Records. I was wondering sort of what was up with that.

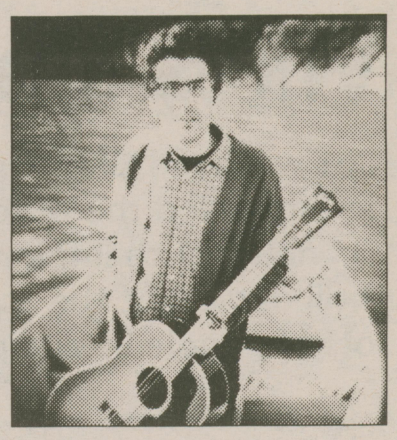
H: At that point there hadn't been a decision to put it out in a bigger way. I make my records myself and I pay for them myself. I'm not really signed to Universal in the traditional sense. They liked it. They thought it'd be fun. So they put it out.

C: Cool. I remember back in the day when you were doing *Moving Careful* or something there was a huge buzz around Outpost Records in the States.

Note: this was when Hayden was named one of SPIN Magazine's Top Forty Most Influential Artists.

H: I heard I was dating Madonna for a while.

C: Really? That must have been fun for you.



H: It was pretty good.

We were on a roll. I tried to get cute as I closed my conversation with Hayden and prepared to wait until March 1, that fateful day, when he would return to our coast. I think I was successful.

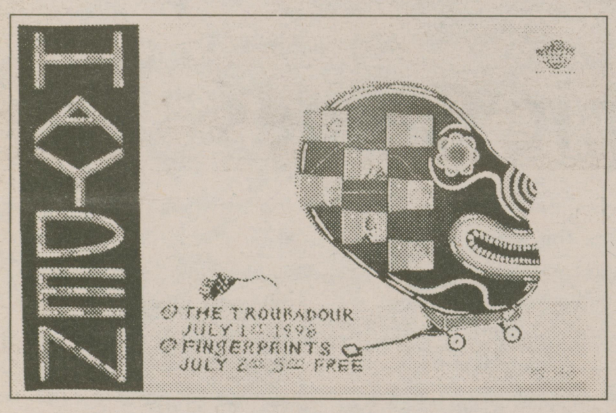
C: I was at the Java show back in 1995 or 1996. You signed my coffee menu and wrote "When I was five I fell off a dog." And I've always kind of wondered, did that really happen?

H: No.

C: So you're telling me you're a big liar then, huh?

H: No, I'm a joker. It's different.

Craig Battle is the Martlet's sports editor and a professional underwear model. This article is even funnier if you know him, which you may because he seems to know everybody.



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the Martlet is having its...
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We'll be dealing with important Martlet business, including items tabled from the AGM. It'll be great.

Monday March 11 at 6.30pm
Mystery location! Stay tuned to find out.

If your name is in the staff box (*and you know who you are!*) then you are morally obligated to show up. If you don't, a rabid yak will chase you about for all eternity! Okay, maybe not, but we'd really love it if you came :-)

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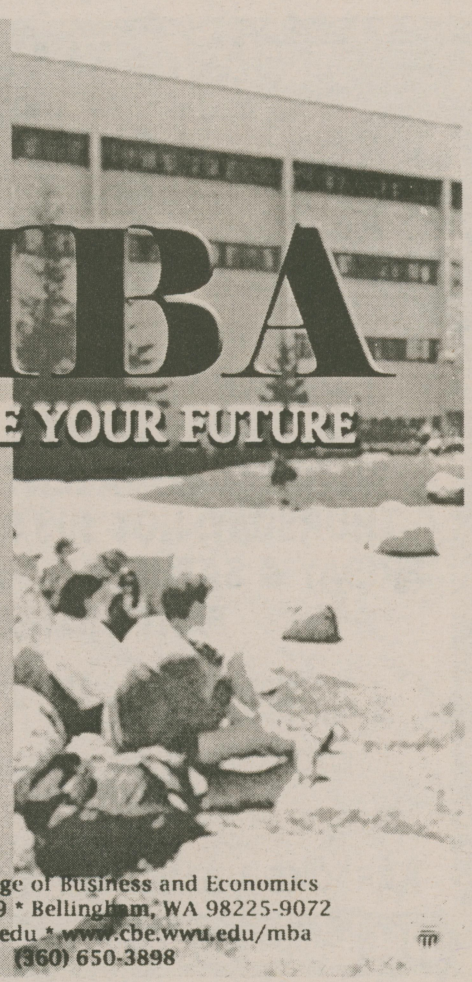

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Vikes smash record books at swim nationals

Last weekend Chris Hindmarch-Watson accompanied the UVic swim team to the CIS national championships. He saw the thrill of victory, the agony of defeat and lots of people in skimpy outfits.

photo provided

Vikes's swimmer John Stamhuis (middle) stands atop the podium at the CIS national championships after taking the 200 breaststroke finals in UVic and BC Senior Provincial record time.

by Chris Hindmarch-Watson

The record books took a beating this past weekend at the CIS national swimming championships.

School, CIS, provincial, national and even world marks (in the Swimmer with a Disability field) fell during the three-day competition.

Vikes swimmers also got in on the action with four new UVic swim team records.

Fifth-year swimmer John Stamhuis, who medalled in four events and set records in one, led UVic's men to a third-place finish. The women weren't far behind either, with a fifth place standing.

Stamhuis, known as "Stami" to his teammates, won gold in both the 100 and 200 m breaststroke and added silvers in the 50 m breaststroke and the 200 m individual medley.

He set new B.C. senior provincial and UVic records in the 200 m breaststroke in a time of two minutes and 11.84 seconds.

Rookie Danielle Bell also had a record-breaking weekend, shattering UVic records in the 200 m and 400 m freestyle events.

In the 200 m event Bell won the consolation final in an impressive 2:02.12, breaking the Vikes record of 2:02.89 set back in 1985 by Olympic bronze medalist Pam Rai.

Later, the 400 m record fell to the talented rookie as she clocked 4:13.45, which was good for fifth in the championship final. Bell also gained her first CIS medal in the 800 m freestyle, winning the bronze medal in a time of 8:43.33.

Dave McDonald broke yet another UVic record during his bronze-medal swim in the 200 m backstroke. He clocked in at 2:02.99.

Other UVic highlights included bronze medals for Josee Dubois in the 200 m breaststroke, Dave Creel in the 1500 m freestyle and Jesse Jacks in the 200 m butterfly. Rookie Laina Steeple performed well, swimming to a National Championship qualifying time in the 100 m backstroke.

The men's team finish was particularly impressive due to their small team. The Vikes brought seven swimmers, compared to 16 for top finisher UBC and 18 for second-place Calgary.

UVic's women, on the other hand, finished only four points behind Toronto.

While this was the final competition of the 2001-2002 season for the Vikes, many of the athletes will continue on with their training and attend the 2002 Commonwealth Trials next month in Winnipeg.

Thug life, fast love and the Olympic Games

by Mark Samcoe

Looking back at my performance during the Winter Olympics, I deserve a medal for voyeurism. While the athletes went faster, higher and stronger, I went chesterfield, loveseat and easychair.

I skipped class, abstained from schoolwork. In order to cut time spent away from the games, I subsisted on Kraft Dinner, which was tantamount to the invention of clap skates in speed skating.

My roommates often found me locking eyes with Kevin Martin or Kelley Law as they pushed from the hack. They dubbed me a "junkie" and kept clear during commercial breaks. Craig, the indifferent one, showed up only for the medal ceremonies. For him, the drama was too intense.

After the late night wrap-up, I went into withdrawal, face down like a skeleton racer on my futon.

My heart must have thought I was in the throes of love due to the number of times it was sent racing by a final bobsleigh or mogul run. No, Heart, I wasn't playin' you.

It was lust, but it felt like love. The Winter Olympics were my porn, a fling broken off after two weeks. I'm a bit heartbroken. Already I miss the nuances.

I miss the little things, like those Elvis Stojko commercials where he says he's glad he chose figure skating over smoking, while landing a jump under a bunch of lights that look eerily like cigarettes. In light of his falling on similar jumps in the men's singles program and finishing a disappointing eighth, it seems that Elvis should have hawked his blades for a carton of kingsize Camels.

I was all about Canada's stylish speed skating outfits. However, though we may have won gold with our red muscle skinsuits, we choked in every race in which we were favoured to medal (Catriona Le May Doan and the short-track team excluded).

Next olympics we need to up the ante a bit by wearing Slim Goodbody suits, you know, the one the curly haired Super Hero of Health wears that shows muscles, organs, bones and all.

I miss the hand gestures and paper shuffling of CBC's primetime analyst, Brian Williams. They were distracting but endearing enough to warrant names. I counted spider, judo chop and deejay as my favourites.

Williams' snide remarks were priceless, like when he called the men's downhill "boring" because officials lowered the starting gate. Perhaps Williams was just disappointed Hermann Maier wasn't around to crash on a training run, break every bone in his body and recover a day later to dominate the alpine as he did in Nagano.

He should have been equally caustic with the Canadian Alpine Ski Team. If more of them had had some early morning nookie before the race like Kerrin-Lee Gartner back in '92, maybe we wouldn't have fared so poorly on the slopes.

I pine for the snowboard slalom and half-pipe, where we couldn't even make the finals, proving the Rebagliatti theory wherein Canadian riders can't do shit unless they've got copious second-hand ganja in their system.

Bless the two Russian cross-country skiers who got busted for using the performance enhancing drug, darbepoetin. They proved to be the dumbest of dope fiends since Evan Dando (remember "My Drug Buddy") by threatening to go home where they wouldn't be pestered by pesky drug tests.

Thankfully, there were no incarnations of Eddie "The Eagle" Edwards, Britain's lone and abysmal ski jumper who charmed everyone at the '88 games in Calgary, except me, freezing my cynical eight-year-old ass off in the bleachers, wishing Horst Bulau would step up and give Matti Nykanen a jump for his Finnish markkas.

I reminisce fondly about the children in coats made of yak hair, who carried old-school railroad engineer lamps and led the athletes to the podium. They continually freaked Craig out. "Those kids are fucked," he would often say. Craig's always had it in for kids. He doesn't talk a lot about his own childhood and I suspect he has unresolved issues.

So while the world's best winter athletes, who won gold, had personal bests, broke world records or finished dead last, return to their home countries still glowing from the Salt Lake experience, I can only dream of rekindling the flames in Italy four years from now.

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Rediscovering Canada in Salt Lake City

Sports Editor Iain McLetchie sat glued to the television last Sunday. He wouldn't have missed the men's gold medal hockey for the world. After seeing Canada's hockey reputation resurrected on the ice in Salt Lake, he would like to say "I told you so."

by Iain McLetchie

Woe to the naysayers. Woe to the doubters and pessimists. Woe to the weak of spirit, the infirm of heart and the small of faith. Woe to those who said it couldn't be done, to those who said we weren't the best anymore and to those who said Mario was too old.

Woe to those who didn't honk their horns when they saw a Canadian flag. Woe to those who cursed when horns were honked. Woe to those who said it meant nothing to them. Woe to those who called them a bunch of millionaires who didn't care.

Hockey is Canada and Canada is hockey. The NHL may slowly be evolving into an American game, but at its heart – no, at its soul – the game is Canadian. The International Olympic Committee's hockey guide says just that in its first few words: "Hockey is a Canadian game."

It's the first game most of us played, strapping on two-bladed skates before graduating to single blades. We skated lines, skated circles, skated backward, skated forward, worked on crossovers, worked on stopping and worked on starting before we could raise the puck. We learned to pass and to receive, to wear elbow pads and shinpads, to tape our blades and lace our skates before we knew how to write cursive.

> We knew Gretzky before we knew Trudeau. We knew the NHL before we knew the House of Commons.

We knew Rocket Richard, Jean Beliveau, Gump Worsley and Gordie Howe before we knew McDonald, King, Laurier and Diefenbaker. We knew Gretzky before we knew Trudeau. We knew the NHL before we knew the House of Commons.

We may not have won Olympic gold in the 50 years prior to Salt Lake, but don't read too much into that. The Canadian teams of those 50 years, well, make it 46 until Nagano, were made up of amateurs, minor league players and juniors. Our best players weren't allowed to play because they were classified as professionals.

So we may not have won gold in the Olympics, but it's not like we fell off the map. We won the 1972 Summit Series in the middle of summer when Espo and Orr were fat from too many brews. We won the 1987 Canada Cup, against all the top countries in the world, behind the Greatness of Gretzky and the Magnificence of Mario. We won five World Junior Championships in a row in the mid-90s.

The only major professional tourneys in the past 15 years that we haven't won are the 1996 World Cup, where the USA shocked us in the final, and the 1998 Nagano Olympics. So we start worrying.

That semi-final loss in Nagano is all Canadians seem to remember, making a medal, no, a gold medal in Salt Lake some sort of redemption. Never mind that we were absolutely stoned by one of the greatest goalies of all-time in that match.

It was the way we lost, after all. Our memories were seared when all five shooters came up empty in a shootout against the Czechs while the greatest player of all time sat on the bench and watched. He was the last man to leave the ice, bleeding maple leafs with the rest of us.

That same man chose a squad for Salt Lake under his ideals, a team of vets and youngsters, a team of power and finesse. At any other time we would have claimed it was one of the greatest collections ever, but most just wondered why Joe Thornton wasn't picked.

We wondered why Patrick Roy chose not to play. Was it due to mismanagement by Gretzky? Never mind that the man might have known what he was doing.

But it appeared he might not, after we lost to Sweden and narrowly won against the lowly Germans. The country and the press started yelling.

"Why wasn't Mario playing?"

"We need more scorers."

"Why can't we adjust to the international game?"

The doubters and cynics shut up after the next game when Mario scored twice in a 3-3 tie with the Czech Republic.

We took the high road to the finals, starting to look like a force in wins over Finland and Belarus. Sakic turned it up a notch, Brodeur solidified the netminding and our dump-and-chase game started working for us.

Still, our southern neighbours stood between us and the gold medal.

A few lucky breaks saw the Yanks score first, but we quickly replied when Kariya scored on a gorgeous non-pass from Mario. We went up 2-1, and had a chance to throw the noose around the collective American neck, but Mario clanked off the post on an empty net. His reaction said it all,

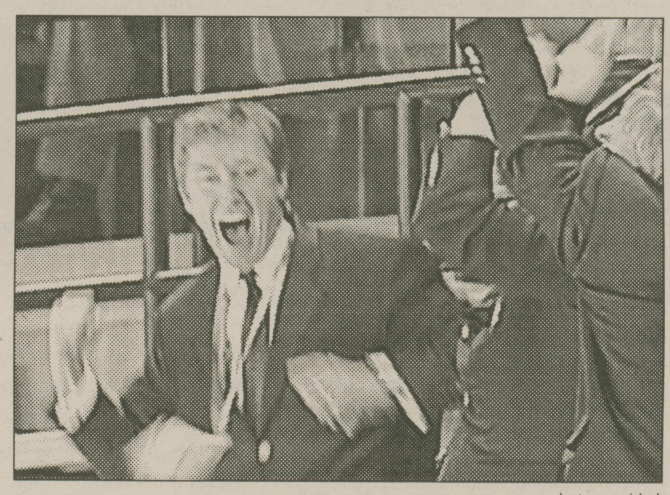

photo provided

The Great One celebrates Canada's victory.

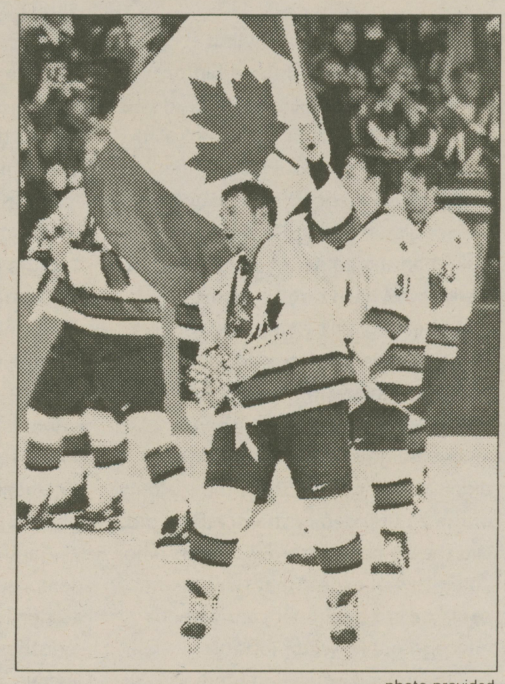

photo provided

Theoren Fleury waves the flag.

one hand raised in disbelief and shock.

Sure enough the Yanks scored soon after, a puck deflecting off Pronger's stick and past a helpless Brodeur. Hearts thumped and palms sweated throughout Canada.

Then Sakic got one back on a deflected shot. Brodeur robbed Brett Hull on a one-timer from the circle. After Iginla slapped one past Richter with four minutes left, it was on.

By the time Sakic iced the game on a breakaway with two minutes left, the country was rocking; and when the boys – our boys – poured onto the ice to celebrate, we danced with them, sang with them and, yes, maybe even got a little teary-eyed with them.

Sunday was a great time to be a Canadian. We may not have needed this game, like so many journalists liked to say, but it sure felt like we did. It's not often that the nation comes together like it did on Sunday and at times like that we understand what makes us Canadian, what makes us strong and what makes us free.

Vikes squeak into Canada West showdown

by Craig Battle

Reading break should be all about relaxation. The sorts of things students don't have time for the rest of the semester, like sleep.

It was set up back in the day to give students a breather and a chance to catch up on schoolwork. Hence the name, "Reading break."

However, the men's Vikes basketball team used the time off for other things. Namely, the pursuit of the Canadian Intervarsity Sport national championships in Halifax this March.

The Vikes used the break to prepare for Simon Fraser, having defeated UBC in three games on the road to advance to the Pacific Division Finals.

The preparation paid off Friday night as UVic easily defeated SFU 90-71. The Vikes shot nearly 60 per cent from the field and 83 per cent from the line.

"We played really well," said Vikes' guard Reagan Daly. "We just outworked them."

Fifth-year Vikes Sandy Bisaro and Keith Bustard each tallied 26 points, while Bustard led the team with 10 boards.

The Vikes didn't fare so well on Saturday night, however, as SFU stole the game and wiped the floor with UVic in both halves, winning by a score of 84-68.

Both Daly and UVic head coach Guy Vetrie agreed the team didn't have its best game of the season.

"We looked unsure of ourselves," Vetrie said. "Our aggressiveness was not there."

"I think a lot of us were looking ahead to Alberta," Daly added.

SFU, on the other hand, soared to victory on strong play from forward tandem Jeremy Neufeld and Brent Charleton. The two totalled 55 points and 16 points between them in the contest, while holding Bisaro to only six points from the field.

"They had to win," Vetrie said. "We didn't actually play the game as if we wanted to win."

The Vikes picked up their game on Sunday and took the Clan to overtime, but lost out amidst controversy akin to Olympic figure skating.

While regulation time ended with the score knotted at 83, SFU quickly widened the gap.

Controversial calls and foul outs, including Bisaro's departure within the first ten seconds of the extra frame, hindered the Vikes' play and dropped them 101-91.

The loss, which threatened the Vikes' season, overshadowed a career night for Bustard. The graduating guard hit for 39 points off 14 of 22 shooting.

The game marked the third straight overtime loss to SFU this season and launched the Clan into the Canada West Final Four along with Alberta and Brandon.

Even though the Vikes lost out in the series they still earned a spot into the tournament on a wildcard vote Monday night.

That means UVic still has a shot at nationals, as three of the four teams will make the march to Halifax. The Vikes must now win one game at the tournament to advance.

The Vikes will lead off against the Alberta Golden Bears, who have gone undefeated since November. The Bears currently sit atop national rankings and show no sign of relinquishing.

But, as Vetrie pointed out, seeds and rankings mean nothing come playoff time.

"They're the best team in the country," he said. "But it's a one game affair. Anything can happen in one game."

There's still a chance, though, that UVic will once again face SFU for a spot to the nationals. Should the Vikes meet up with the Clan again, Daly said, the team will be ready.

"Losing and getting a second chance like that would get us pretty fired up," he said.

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WEEKEND ROWING ACTION

Saturday March 2 — Elk Lake Spring Regatta — 10:00 a.m - 4:30 pm

Sunday March 3 — Elk Lake Spring Regatta — 8:00 a.m - 2:00 pm

STUDENT VOICE

The ugly side of the Feb. 23 demonstration

by Emmanuel Raymundo

Saturday, Feb. 23, was my last demonstration. I used to be big on demonstrations and sit-ins. In grade 12 I took part in a march to Queen's Park to protest the defeat of Bill 67 (that would have extended benefits to same-sex couples in Ontario) culminating in a sit-in on the corner of Yonge and Wellesley. While I don't support the Campbell regime's regressive, corporate agenda, I was also uncomfortable with the overall tenor of Saturday's demonstration. There was an overriding sentiment that "We didn't vote for this." Sadly, the majority of the 25,000 demonstrators there did. Did the 58 per cent of B.C. voters who voted Liberal expect that their taxes could be cut by 50 per cent without affecting public sector jobs or healthcare and education funding?

Having this conversation with some friends and acquaintances, some have criticized me by countering that as a political science graduate student, I have some special knowledge and analysis of the issues that would allow me to "foresee" the cuts. I don't think you have to be Cassandra, the Oracle at Delphi or a political science grad student to know that Gordie and the boys were gonna cut. When you take the really hot guy from Lucky home with you to screw and he tells you he's gonna call you – do you really think he's gonna call? People lie; politicians lie. You would have to be in a coma for the last decade to not know that governments elected on a platform of "change" and "reform" means privatization, cuts, lay-offs and sticking it to the poor. Do we not live next door to Ralph Klein? Does anyone watch the news to see the disaster Ontario has become under Mike Harris? As well, B.C. has a notorious reputation for extreme governments. Especially in a two-party province like B.C., a protest vote against the NDP is a vote for the Liberals.

Another problem with Saturday's demonstration is that it did not acknowledge the just and equitable redistribution of wealth outside the liberal capitalist framework. Largely, it's about how do "we" protect our highly inflated wages (in comparative global terms) and how do "we" protect our piece of the pie? As a friend pointed out, there's never a link between Western comfort and privilege and "Third World" poverty. Despite being a demonstration for (I think) "giving the people a voice" or "speaking out against the government" or an "exercise in democracy," there were some pretty undemocratic ideas being thrown around, namely the idea of "re-call" in which a certain percentage of constituents sign a petition in order to force their representative to resign.

Recall is a problematic concept. Firstly, gaining the percentage of signatories can be relatively easy or difficult depending on such external factors as who's funding the drive to re-call. Recalls are therefore not necessarily an exercise in democracy but an exercise in who's got the deepest pockets to successfully mount the campaign. Furthermore, the targets of recall initiatives are not always right-wing slashers like Gordon's gang but progressive legislators with progressive agendas. For example, then-Minister of Education Paul Ramsey was subject to a 1998 recall when some constituents objected (amongst other things) to his push for inclusive, anti-homophobic teaching materials in school curricula. Finally, to exclusively equate "democracy" with "recall" is to have a very narrow conception of democracy that negates other avenues of protest and participation thereby inhibiting individual and community agency.

And finally, I didn't like Saturday's demonstration because I saw the ugliness of people. One of the speakers was feminist activist Benita Bunjun. By eloquently and passionately articulating the different forms of violence inflicted on women because of bad public policy, she effectively criticized the sexist statement that a Liberal cabinet minister made regarding how men and women have exactly the same opportunities and that if women fall behind, it's due to the choices women make. A few feet in front of me were male teamsters who were absolutely disinterested in what she was saying. They were pickin' their noses and their ears. They were sipping their Tim Hortons coffees. They were doing absolutely anything but paying attention to this woman. When (white, male) B.C. Federation of Labour president Jim Sinclair spoke (without an accent) following Ms. Bunjun, mentioning the same thing about women and violence, the men started to pay some attention.

The demonstration confirmed for me that despite lip service to inclusiveness and equity, the labour movement is still largely enacted through whiteness supported by perverse undertones of racism. One of the placards I saw had a picture of Campbell dressed as a tribal African savage, with a bone piercing his nose and wild hair over a boiling pot of people. Mel Lastman, anyone? Such displays of unchecked racism were a shame because it debilitates the potential for a truly inclusive, truly radical social movement that includes everyone. Racism, sexism, class elitism and heterosexism all work in concert with one another to produce interlocking spheres of domination. That little known "fact" seems to have been lost on many people at the demonstration where example after example showed that class trumped gender trumped race.

There were many racialized workers waving signs against the government and marching with their unions. Working, theorizing, thinking in a university, one of the central questions my racialized friends and I have is "Why are there so few of us here?" On Saturday we remembered why: the other black and brown people are out there working – in hotels, in hospitals, in assembly lines, in factories. My friend and I were astounded to see how many people of colour there were holding union placards. As alienated and uncomfortable as I was, I wonder how those racialized union members felt?

It is a privilege to be able to think and to write about this; I dedicate this to them.

BILLBOARDS

ON CAMPUS

The Canadian Tibet Committee presents: Spirit of Tibet. Dance and music from the roof of the world. Excellent Tibetan performing artists including Grammy nominee, flautist Nawang Khechog. **March 3,** 7:30 p.m. at the University Centre Auditorium. Tickets from the McPherson Box Office, 386-6121. $20/$15 students and seniors.

Attention all students of the UVic Medieval Club and St. Giles College: our Annual General Meeting will be held on **March 4** at 7 p.m. in the SUB, Rm. B023. Everyone is encouraged to come out and vote for the new officers of the Club. For further information, including a list of candidates and job descriptions, please contact smuir@uvic.ca or 477-1805.

Expose yourself to art! Silent art auction: presented by the History in Art Student Society. Michèle Pujol Room in the SUB, **March 12 and 13.**

You are invited to a free screening of *The Spirit Wrestlers* – a feature-length documentary that exposes the dramatic and troubling story of the century of Doukhobor life in Canada. Wednesday, **March 6**, at 7 p.m. in CIT Room 105. Everyone welcome! Co-sponsored by the UVic History Department and THUGS. 721-7381.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Artists! Submit your work to a silent auction and keep 65 per cent of the profits. Submission dates: **March 4 to 8.** For info please write to historyinart@hotmail.com

Stop smoking through hypnosis! Next Victoria workshop: **March 2.** Student price: $59 + GST 413-3124 www.Walsh-Seminars.com

Out of the Closet and in your Face: an exhibit of photography celebrating lesbian life. The exhibit will take place at UVic in April and we need photography from the community in order to make this a rousing success! Anyone can submit! We really mean that! The photography must include the subject of lesbianism! Get creative, get sexy, and get your submissions in by **March 30.** For more info contact Kaylie at 386-1969 or Valerie at 370-7736 or email submissions@technodyke.com

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A non-bus or bus-stop chat o'er a coffee?"
rabelaisian_raconteur@hotmail.com

Last weekend has left me unable to concentrate and in dire need of a back massage. All for the love of icy waters and rushing adrenaline.

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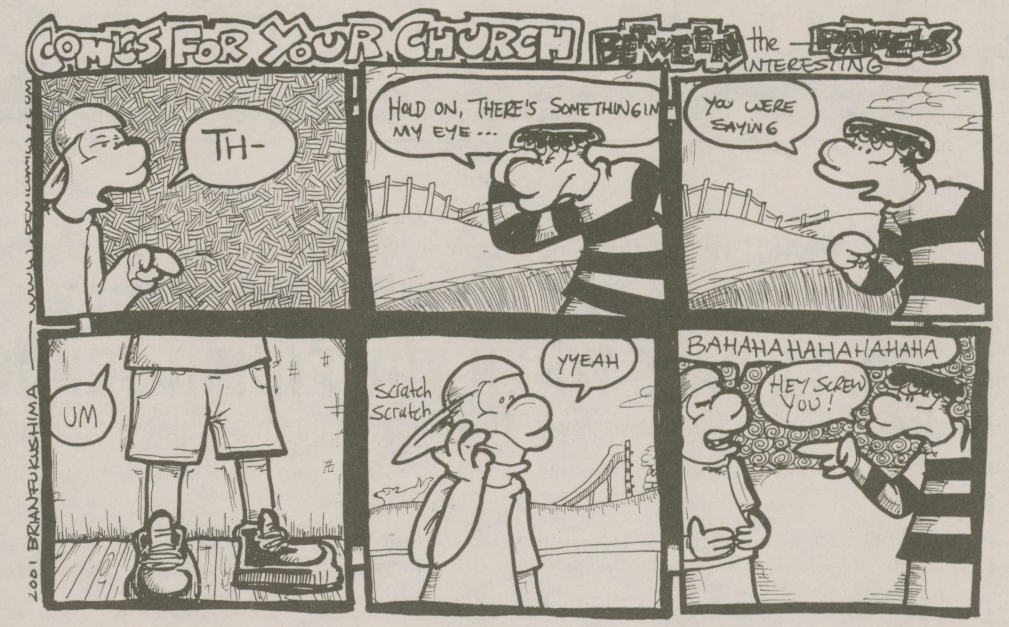
For details, call **Lisa or Darren** at 721-8361. Please drop résumés off at *the Martlet* office (sub b011). We will not accept résumés by fax or e-mail. Full job descriptions are available at the office.

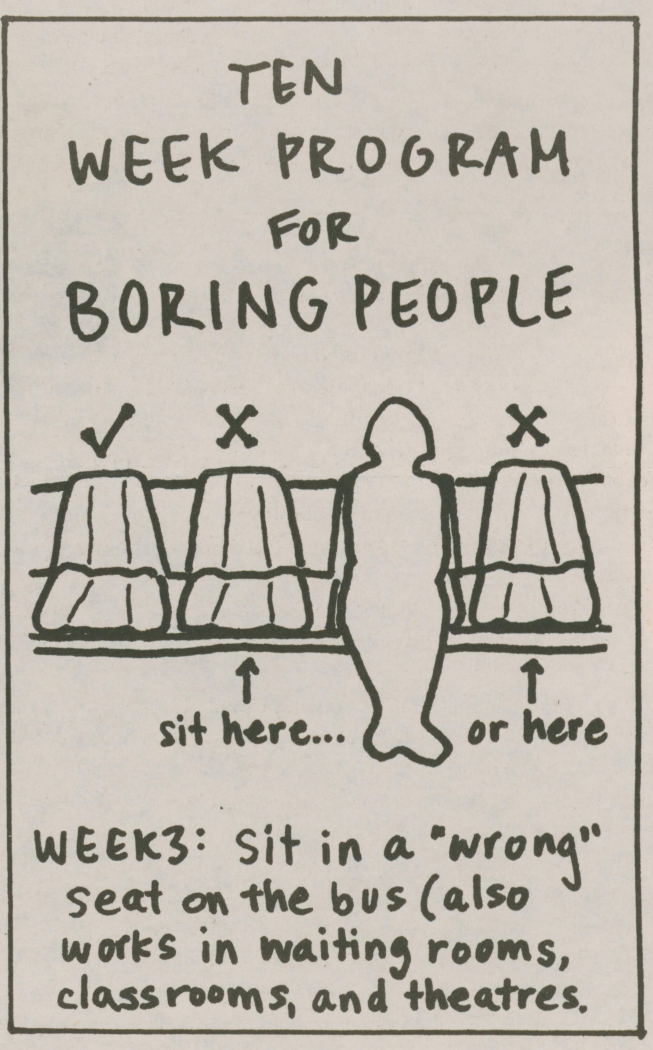
Deadline is March 1, 2002

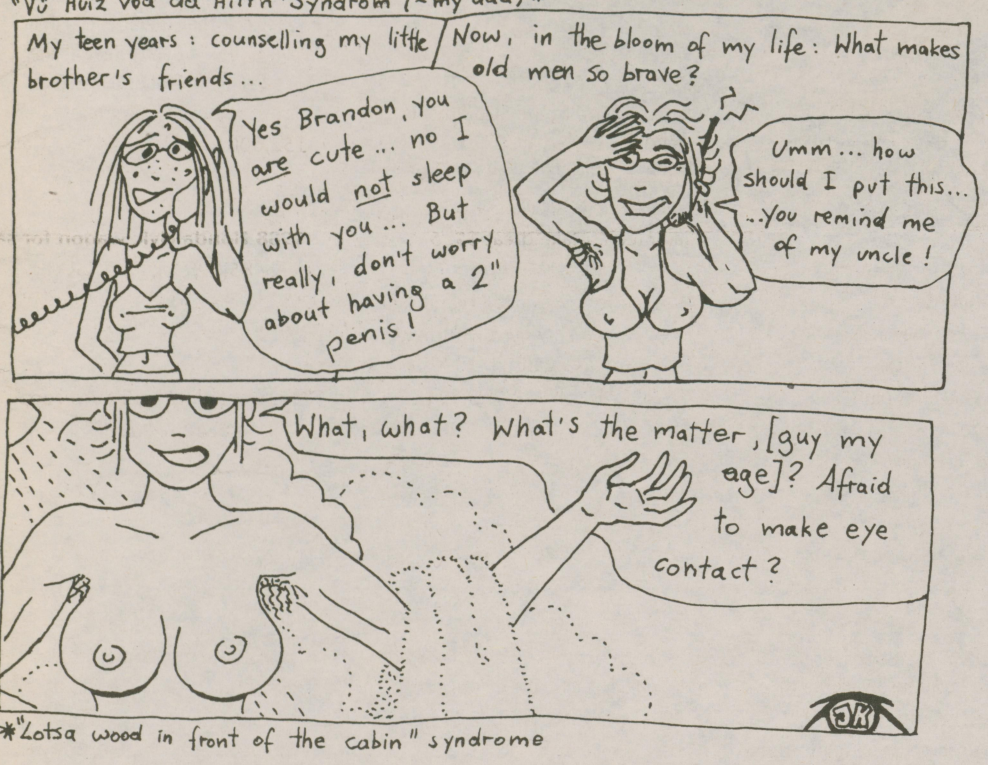
comics

SAM & FUZZY ©2002 BY SAM LOGAN SLOTH!
MAN, THIS PARTY IS TEDIOUS. HEY, UGLY, GET ME A BEER!
RIGHT, RUNT. WHAT KIND OF BEER DO YOU WANT?
A BIG ONE!
HEY, FUNNY. ARE YOU EVEN OLD ENOUGH TO DRINK, FUR BALL?
SMACK!
LISTEN TO ME, YOU SNOT-NOSED GEEZER... THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS RIGHT, AND I'M A CUSTOMER, AND I SAID GIMMIE A BIG ☠⊙!☹ING BEER!!
FINE.
HERE. ITS A BUCKET FULL OF ALL THE BEER DREGS FROM THE DIRTY GLASSES.
DAMN STRAIGHT! NOW, WAS THAT SO HARD?
SLOOSH!

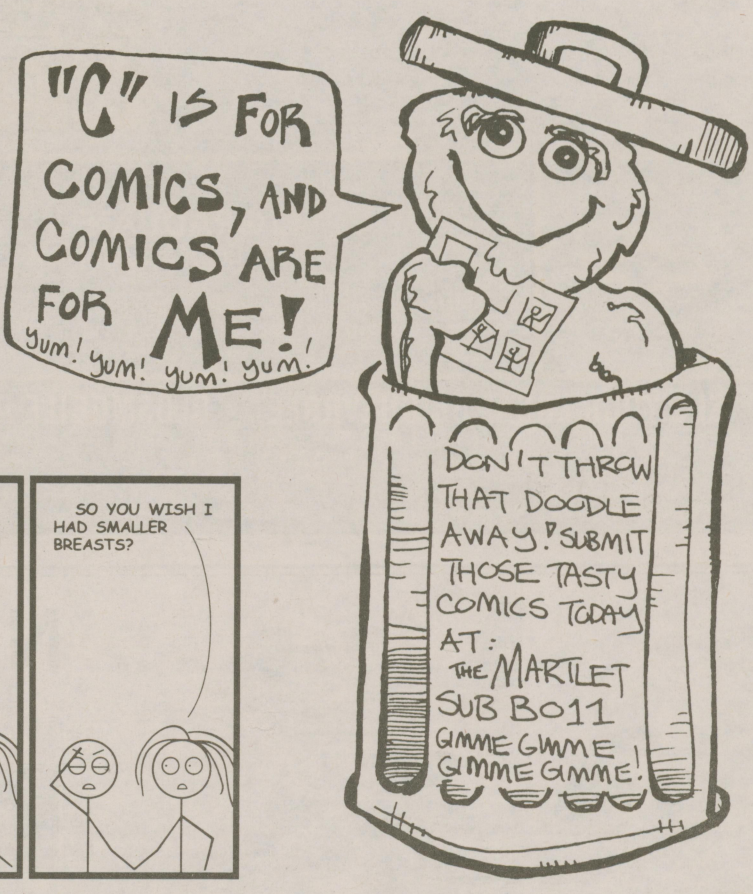
esrever@eudoramail.com






"Vi Huiz voa da Hitt'n" Syndrom (~my dad)*
My teen years: counselling my little brother's friends...
Yes Brandon, you are cute... no I would not sleep with you... But really, don't worry about having a 2" penis!
Now, in the bloom of my life: What makes old men so brave?
Umm... how should I put this... ..you remind me of my uncle!
What, what? What's the matter, [guy my age]? Afraid to make eye contact?
JK

*"Lotsa wood in front of the cabin" syndrome


"C" IS FOR COMICS, AND COMICS ARE FOR ME!
yum! yum! yum! yum!
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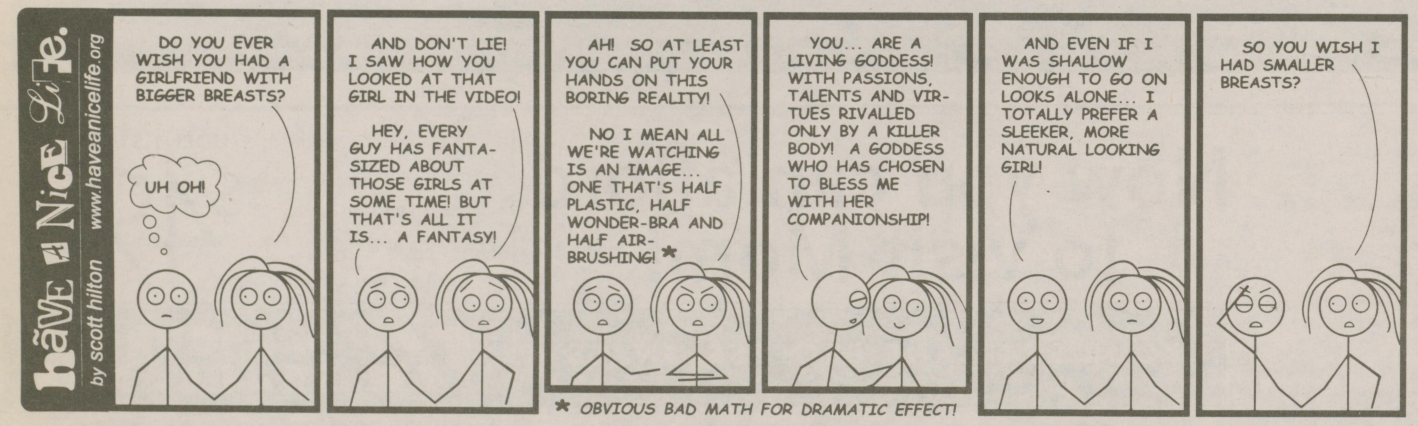
GIMME GIMME GIMME GIMME!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by scott hilton www.haveanicelife.org
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UH OH!
AND DON'T LIE! I SAW HOW YOU LOOKED AT THAT GIRL IN THE VIDEO!
HEY, EVERY GUY HAS FANTA-SIZED ABOUT THOSE GIRLS AT SOME TIME! BUT THAT'S ALL IT IS... A FANTASY!
AH! SO AT LEAST YOU CAN PUT YOUR HANDS ON THIS BORING REALITY!
NO I MEAN ALL WE'RE WATCHING IS AN IMAGE... ONE THAT'S HALF PLASTIC, HALF WONDER-BRA AND HALF AIR-BRUSHING! *
YOU... ARE A LIVING GODDESS! WITH PASSIONS, TALENTS AND VIR-TUES RIVALLED ONLY BY A KILLER BODY! A GODDESS WHO HAS CHOSEN TO BLESS ME WITH HER COMPANIONSHIP!
AND EVEN IF I WAS SHALLOW ENOUGH TO GO ON LOOKS ALONE... I TOTALLY PREFER A SLEEKER, MORE NATURAL LOOKING GIRL!
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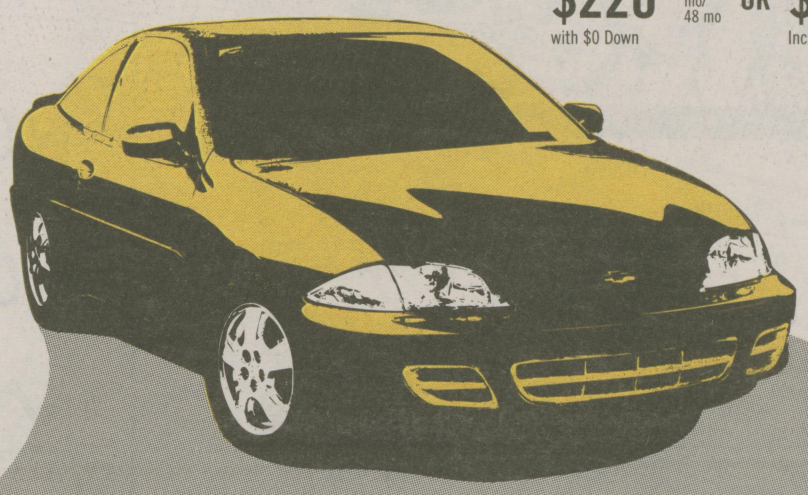

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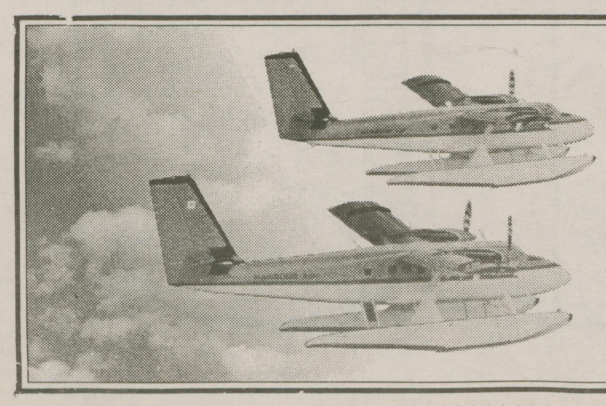
*Based on a 48 month lease for 2002 Chevrolet Cavalier VL Coupe R7A. Total obligation is $10,848. Annual kilometre limit 20,000 km, $0.12 per excess kilometre. Option to purchase at lease end is $5,881. Other lease options available. ‡*Freight included. License, insurance and taxes not included. ♦General Motors will pay first month's GMAC lease payment up too $500 inclusive of applicable taxes. Licence, insurance, and taxes not included. Certain taxes and administration fees may apply. "Drive away without paying" offer does not apply to purchase financing offer. ‡†*For Chevrolet Cavalier Coupe R7A the SmartLease monthly payment and the GMAC purchase finance rates are not available with and are not calculated on the "Cash Purchase" price shown. The difference between the price for the Smartlease/GMAC purchase finance offer and the "Cash Purchase" price offer is deemed under provincial disclosure laws to be a cost of borrowing, whether or not the same represents actual interest, and is required to be expressed as an actual percentage rate which is 9.34%. Offers apply only to new or demonstrator models of vehicles equipped as described and applies to qualified retail customers in BC Dealer Marketing Association area only. Dealer order or trade of 2002 models may be required. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Limited time offer which may not be combined with other offers. Certain exceptions apply. See your local GM dealer(s) for conditions and details.



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